Welsh Bird Report No. 31: 2017

Edited by Julian Hughes

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Front cover: Dunlin (Colin Harvey). Back cover: Grey Heron (Edward Macdonald).

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WELSH BIRD REPORT NO. 31: 2017

Review of the birding year 2017

Many, perhaps most, WOS members contribute to regular bird surveys and monitoring - and many also count butterflies, dragonflies, plants and a whole host of other biodiversity; these volunteers are the backbone of wildlife monitoring in the UK, and the envy of many other countries. They not only give their time, but also pay for the pleasure, whether travelling to a regular counting site or, in the case of bird-ringers, buying all their kit and stacks of rings each year. Volunteers give thousands of hours of their time to these surveys in Wales each year. It's fitting, then, that we have been able to include trends in bird populations here for the first time, enabling the *Welsh Bird Report* to provide a more complete snapshot of the state of birds in Wales in 2017.

Wintering waterbirds

Flicking through the pages of this report, you will find several waders that have hit the lowest levels recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey: declines in Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Dunlin continue without any sign of arrest. These breed to the north or east of Britain, and the declines may reflect changes on their breeding grounds or result from their wintering closer to their nesting areas. Either way, combined with increasing evidence from studies across the world, it's hard to avoid the words ‘climate’ and ‘change’. There isn’t really much good news for waders, but despite only just hanging on as a breeding species in Wales, counts of non-breeding Redshanks have hit a record high in Wales.

Redshank (Bob Haycock)

'Short-stopping' to the east is also behind the fall in Bewick's Swan records in recent years. Only two sites now hold regular flocks, with maximum counts of nine in Gwent and 23 on the Dee (Flintshire). Ducks are not doing so badly, but most birdwatchers in Wales will appreciate that they now see far fewer Pochards each winter, with barely any records from western counties; the highest count in Wales was just 69 birds, at Kenfig (E.Glamorgan). The decline in non-breeding Coots has, perhaps, gone under the radar, numbers having fallen by almost half since 2000.

Wetland boom

The creation and restoration of wetlands along the north and south coasts is paying dividends. 26 Cattle Egrets during the year is almost as many (32) as had ever been recorded in Wales prior to 2010, while a minimum 95 Great White Egrets is almost double the previous year's record high (including a group of eight in Gower that constitutes a new Welsh record). Both are candidate future breeders, following in the yellow footsteps of Little Egrets, which bred in Radnorshire and Flintshire for the first time, the latter among a colony of Rooks.

RSPB nature reserves on Anglesey hosted three Bittern nests for the second consecutive year, and males boomed in four other counties, hopefully a sign of future spread. Marsh Harriers bred on Anglesey again, with a fourth nest in Gwent.

Lapwings had a successful nesting season, with good productivity, but they are now largely confined to nature reserves, at least in lowland Wales, where fencing plays a valuable role in keeping mammalian predators away from nests. Fences won't help Common Cranes, though, birds that require big landscapes. As well as a repeat breeding attempt on the Gwent Levels, another pair held territory in the Vale of Glamorgan, both stemming from the reintroduction project in Somerset.

All at sea

The crisis for Kittiwakes, apparent across Britain, continues to worry marine ornithologists, with most Welsh colonies declining and another year of low nesting productivity. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are declining at most coastal colonies too, as are Herring Gulls in Pembrokeshire, but both species utilise urban rooftops, so well done to Gwent Ornithological Society for undertaking a survey of those less-monitored sites. Guillemots are doing well, with record counts from the Great Orme and Bardsey (Caernarfonshire), although there were fewer Razorbills here.

Wales' only Little Tern colony at Gronant (Flintshire) had a great season, thanks to kind weather and hard work by a team of wardens, which resulted in the highest number of pairs and the second best year ever for fledged chicks. By contrast, Wales' only Sandwich Tern colony, at Cemlyn (Anglesey), had a very poor season, as did Common Terns, Arctic Terns and Black-headed Gulls at the lagoon, because of predation by Otters. New defence measures were put in place ahead of the 2018 season.

Finally, while the Wetland Bird Survey index for Common Gull hit a new low, the increase in that for Mediterranean Gull shows no sign of slowing. Post-breeding gatherings of Mediterranean Gulls are now

Sandwich Tern (Bob Garrett)

part of many a Welsh birders' summer, with flocks of 260 at Blackpill (Gower), 240 at Aberystwyth (Ceredigion) and 236 at Pwll (Carmarthenshire) in July and August. Colour-ring sightings show that these birds gather from across northwest Europe.

Breeding bird index

The Breeding Bird Survey has been a game-changer in enabling us to track the fortunes of birds in Wales, and I'd urge every reader to volunteer for this important monitoring scheme (and if you already do one square, why not take on another?).

Several species hit new low points on the graph in 2017. Some will come as no surprise: Swift, Kestrel, Starling and Yellowhammer have been on the list of conservation concern for some time. But less obvious, until you read the figures, are all-time lows for Magpie, Rook, Wheatear, Chaffinch and Greenfinch. The all-Wales index for Willow Warbler almost certainly masks a reduction in southeast Wales, especially in the lowlands, and again climate change is likely to lie behind this.

There are statistics to celebrate too. Wren, Goldfinch, Stonechat, Reed Bunting and Song Thrush hit new highs (since the BBS started in 1994), the last two are species that were on the Red List a couple of decades ago.

Plugging the gaps

There are many species that are too scarce to register accurately in national schemes, and for these, contributing data to BirdTrack and records to county bird reports continues to be really important in plugging the gaps in our knowledge.

Seaducks are one group of birds that, in the absence of aerial surveys, rely on *ad hoc* counts by keen seawatchers in winter. After a run of poor years, there were good counts of Scaup in the first winter period, with a minimum 97 across Wales in February. Records of Long-tailed Duck were the best for many years, with four sites each holding at least half a dozen birds. By contrast, Eider numbers are falling on the Burry Inlet (Gower) and Aberdysynni (Meirionnydd), and it seems that only the Menai Strait (Caernarfonshire/Anglesey) holds a stable, if small, population.

Owls are not well monitored by the standard recording schemes, but even the *ad hoc* records suggest that Short-eared Owls are now a scarce breeding species, with just 1-6 pairs in mainland Wales in 2017, while only 2-4 pairs of Little Owl were recorded. Species such as Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Tit and Willow Tit are now too rare to register on the BBS, so every sighting reported to county recorders is important; the RSPB is organising a survey of Willow Tits in 2019 and 2020, supported by WOS, to assess their status.

Visible migration attracts dedicated birders who scan the skies, especially at coastal watchpoints. They reported huge flocks of Woodpigeons passing through south Wales in late October, including a remarkable 225,000 birds over Newport Wetlands (Gwent). Autumn 2017 also saw an influx of Hawfinches into Britain, and while Wales didn't benefit from the huge flocks seen in southern England, there were more records than usual in southeast Wales, the largest flock being 38 in Pontypool (Gwent).

Short-eared Owl (Jeff Slocombe)

As always, the weather plays its part in our sightings, and many birders have become adept at 'reading' pressure charts and wind predictions during migration. Storm Petrels and Leach's Petrels occurred in good numbers in autumn and there was a similarly strong autumn passage of Arctic Skuas off the west coast. Migration watchers always hope that they'll bump into 'the big one', and 2017 brought that feeling for some lucky birders: Wales' second Myrtle Warbler (Pembrokeshire) and King Eider (Ceredigion) in June, and third Rock Thrush (Gwent) in October. Two Dark-eyed Juncos turned up in May, on Skomer (Pembrokeshire) and Dolgellau (Meirionnydd). With just one previous Welsh record (in 1975), no-one would have predicted that two would appear in four days!

Weather summary for Wales in 2017

This summary is based on the Met. Office monthly summaries for Wales at ***metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/2017/***

The trend for the UK as a whole is for a warming climate, and that was the case in 2017: nine months were warmer than average, making it the equal warmest year on record in Wales (with 2011). Most places were within 10% of the yearly average for rainfall but it was wetter in west Wales, where sunshine hours were slightly below average. Notable extreme weather events during the year included Storm Doris in February and widespread snow over Wales and central England on 10 December.

January began wet, but cold drier conditions soon spread from the north. It was unsettled in the second week, with snow in many places on 12th and 13th. The second half of the month was generally dry, quite cold and settled with a fair amount of sunshine for much of Wales, but it turned mild, cloudy and wet during the last few days. The mean temperature was 0.4°C above the long-term average, and it was a dry month, with 53% of average rainfall.

February began mild and unsettled, but turned colder, with easterly winds and some snow in places during the second week. The second half of the month was mild and cloudy, and the last week of the month was wet and very windy with Storm Doris on 23rd leading to widespread power cuts in North Wales. The mean temperature for February was 1.7°C above the long-term average. Rainfall was above normal near north- and west-facing coasts and average elsewhere. It was the sixth dullest February since records began in 1929.

The unsettled spell, with southwesterly winds, continued through most of **March**. After a brief colder interlude, it was generally warm and sunny from the 24th to 27th but then unsettled. The mean temperature for March was 1.8°C above the long-term average. It was a wet month almost everywhere, with 132% of average rainfall.

April began showery but soon turned more settled as high pressure developed from the south. It was very warm at times until the 9th, then generally cooler, but stayed mostly dry. It was cold at times towards the end of the month, with some wintry showers on 25th and 26th. The mean temperature for April was 0.6°C above the long-term average. It was a dry month everywhere with just 28% of average rainfall, the eighth driest April on record since 1910.

Rain continued into **May** in the south, but otherwise the first ten days were dry and generally sunny with mostly easterly winds. It turned unsettled around mid-month, but the last third was quieter. There was a marked warm sunny spell from the 23rd to 26th, helping it to be the third warmest May since 1910, at 1.8°C above the long-term average.

June started changeable with westerly winds and rain persisting until 12th. A marked hot sunny spell followed, with temperatures in excess of 30°C in places. Cloudy, wet weather returned from 22nd. The mean temperature was 1.5°C above the long-term average, and it was the joint fifth warmest June since 1910. Rainfall was well above average in the west, with more than twice the normal amount in Pembrokeshire and Anglesey, but closer to average in the east.

July started changeable with sunshine and showers, before turning warmer and more settled. The

second half of the month became increasingly unsettled and cooler with frequent rain or showers. The mean temperature was 0.1°C above the long-term average and rainfall was 131% of average.

August was changeable with low pressure systems and fronts moving in from the west at regular intervals. It was mostly cool, but it turned generally warmer from 20th to 27th. The mean temperature for August was 0.4°C below the long-term average.

A ridge of high pressure brought dry, sunny weather at the start of **September**, but otherwise unsettled weather dominated with cool north-westerly winds for the first three weeks, then frequent rain and south-westerly winds from the 20th. Mean temperature for September was 0.2°C below the long-term average. Rainfall was 147% of the September average, but far lower in the southeast.

October started changeable with westerly winds, followed by frequent warm south-westerlies which brought cloud but only modest amounts of rain. The mean temperature for October was 1.7°C above the long-term average, with overnight temperatures the eighth highest in any October since 1910. It was a dry month, especially in the southeast, with 65% of average rainfall.

Much of **November** had changeable westerly weather, interspersed with short-lived northerlies. The last week was colder with some widespread overnight frosts. The mean temperature for November was equal to the 1981-2010 average. Nationally, rainfall was 90% of average, but it was a dry and sunny month in the southeast and a cloudy, wet month over much of the west.

December was generally unsettled with alternating mild and cold spells. Frost occurred frequently between 7th and 16th, when there was also widespread snow at times, but it was milder in the first week and between the 20th and 25th. The mean temperature for the month was 0.5°C above the long-term average.

BIRD RECORDING IN WALES

The vast majority of records used to compile the *Welsh Bird Report*, and the data presented from national recording schemes, are collected by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. We sometimes lament our lack of knowledge about birds in Wales, but it is far more complete thanks to this army of unpaid expertise than it would otherwise be.

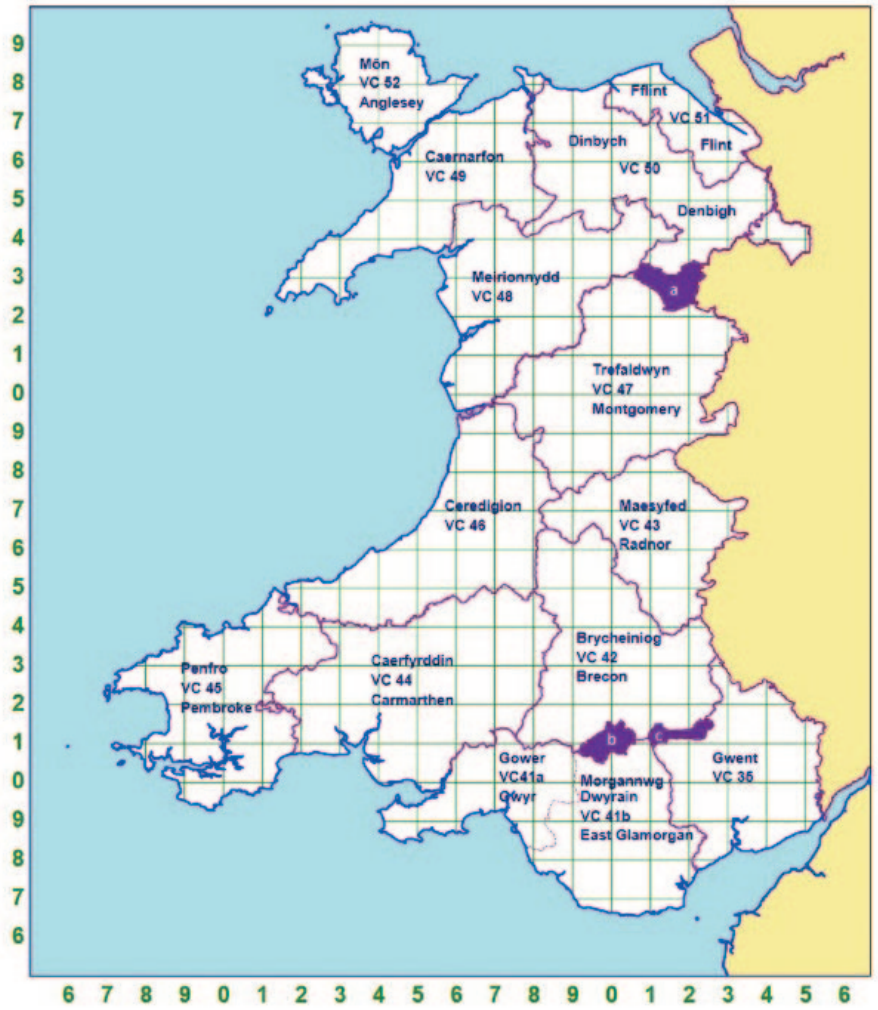
The backbone of this huge collation of records is the bird clubs and the network of county bird recorders that they support. The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian vice-county system (hereafter referred to as counties for simplicity) as the basis of bird recording in Wales, illustrated on the map below (see the Ray Society, publication No. 146). This system largely matches the pre-1974 administrative counties used by the Society until 1996. The three differences shown in purple (on the map on page 7) reflect the modern boundaries of Powys: records from (a) are maintained by both Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire recorders; those from (b) and (c), while historically in Brecknockshire, are maintained by recorders in East Glamorgan and Gwent respectively.

A list of bird reports appears on page 204.

This Report also uses statistics collected by two UK-wide monitoring schemes and one that collects birdwatchers' records from across the World.

Indices of around 60 breeding species are presented from the UK **Breeding Bird Survey**, where the species occurs in a minimum of 30 randomly-selected 1-km squares in Wales. These squares are visited twice each spring to record all the birds present, with habitat information also collected. The Breeding Bird Survey is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by the BTO, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage).

Indices of waterbirds in Wales are presented using data collected from the **Wetland Bird Survey**, the current incarnation of surveys to monitor ducks, geese, swans and waders since the 1960s, and which



now extends to divers, grebes, cormorants, crakes/rails, gulls, terns and Kingfisher. Volunteers count all waterbirds present on estuaries, inland waterbodies and some stretches of open coast at high tide each month. WeBS is a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland) in association with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

On the graphs shown in the systematic list, the blue line denotes the annual index and the red line shows the smoothed trend.

Headline figures for Wales from **BirdTrack** show the number of records received in Wales and, importantly, the proportion of 'complete lists' on which the species occurred during the year. BirdTrack lists convert unstructured sightings into data that can be analysed, as well as providing a platform for

birdwatchers to maintain their records and submit them automatically to local bird recorders. BirdTrack is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology for the BTO, RSPB, BirdWatch Ireland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society.

We encourage WOS members and *Welsh Bird Repor*t readers to register on BirdTrack.net and use it whenever you're birding, and for those who are able to commit to regular surveys, to contact their BTO.org regional representative.

Rare and scarce birds in Wales

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or on the list of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WRP. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

The Welsh Records Panel, part of the Welsh Ornithological Society, considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the BBRC list. The current list is shown below.

Descriptions can be submitted via County Recorders or direct to the Panel's Secretary. Forms are available from County Recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the Panel can see its deliberations on the record on request. The WRP has five voting members and a non-voting Secretary; membership in 2017 comprised: Steve Stansfield, Bardsey (Chairman), Richard Brown – Skokholm & Pembrokeshire, Mark Hipkin – Gower, Chris Jones – Denbighshire, Mike Powell – East Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfonshire, and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green – Ceredigion.
In 2017, the full list of species which the Panel considered was as follows:

Taiga Bean Goose
Tundra Bean Goose
American Wigeon
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Lesser Scaup
Surf Scoter
Smew
White-billed Diver
Wilson's Petrel
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
Red-necked Grebe
White Stork
Glossy Ibis
Night-heron
Cattle Egret
Golden Eagle
Montagu's Harrier
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Rough-legged Buzzard
Corncrake
Spotted Crake
Crane
Stone-curlew
Black-winged Stilt
American Golden Plover
Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Ring-billed Gull
Caspian Gull
White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift
Bee-eater
Red-footed Falcon
Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike
Golden Oriole
Penduline Tit
Bearded Tit*
Shore Lark
Short-toed Lark
Red-rumped Swallow
Dusky Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Pallas's Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Blyth's Reed Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Barred Warbler
Rose-coloured Starling
Bluethroat
Nightingale
Red-flanked Bluetail
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Citrine Wagtail
Olive-backed Pipit
Common Rosefinch
Common Redpoll
Arctic Redpoll
Parrot Crossbill
Serin
Corn Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Cirl Bunting
Little Bunting

*WRP only assesses records away from Gwent/East Glamorgan where Bearded Tits breed.

Scarce subspecies are considered on the same basis, i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually. Examples considered by the Panel are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
Razorbill – *torda*
Little Auk – *polaris*
Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*
Siberian Chiffchaff – *tristis*
Treecreeper – *familiaris*
Coal Tit – *ater*
Jay – *glandarius*
Jackdaw – *monedula*
Redpolls – *islandica / rostrata*
Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*

WRP also assesses records of **Subalpine Warbler** when the subspecies cannot be determined; records assigned to subspecies are considered by the BBRC.

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or still be under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WRP species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Records submitted too late for a decision in time for publication in the Report for that year will be included in subsequent years if accepted.

Records should be submitted to BBRC through County Recorders or in an electronic form ONLY to **secretary@bbrc.org.uk**. If it is a written or typed description. please send to the WRP Secretary who will scan and send it on to BBRC. Jon Green, Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email: **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**.

TREATMENT OF RECORDS IN THE WELSH BIRD REPORT

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2017 unless otherwise indicated. Species names and order follows the International Ornithological Congress taxonomy, but using vernacular names in English and Welsh that are widely used by birders. The species included in the main list are those placed by WOS in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state in Wales at least once since 1 January 1950) or Category C (introduced species which now have a self-sustaining population). A list of birds, to subspecies level, that have been recorded in Wales is available at *https://birdsin.wales/rare-birds/welsh-records-panel*

For some species monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. Unless noted as WeBS, these figures are the peak count noted at each site in that month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

WOS and county bird recorders have formally agreed the adoption of vice-county names in both Welsh and English languages, which are shown on the website birdsin.wales. These reflect local usage, even though they vary in their use of the '-shire' suffix. These names are shown on the map on page 7, but for conciseness, the systematic list uses shortened forms (e.g. Brecon, not Brecknockshire).

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E.GLAMORGAN or GOWER. Where sites border two vice-counties (mostly estuaries), records are shown based on the county from which they were seen. The exception is the well-watched Teifi estuary where birds are frequently reported from both Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion; at this site, records are shown as PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION if they were reported from both vice-counties and the maximum number/date range is reported, even if the exact dates and numbers involved differ slightly from each side. RSPB Conwy nature reserve is treated as being in DENBIGH unless the bird concerned was specifically noted to be in the small part of the reserve which lies in CAERNARFON.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each county. Where a bird stays into two or more months it is recorded for each month. In tables of early and late

migrants, the most extreme date is shown in bold type.

The conservation status of each species in Wales is noted as Red, Amber or Green species of conservation concern in Wales, based on Johnstone and Bladwell 2016.

Abbreviations used in the report

CP. Country Park
est. Estuary
GP. Gravel Pit
LNR. Local Nature Reserve
NR. Nature Reserve
NNR. National Nature Reserve (designated)
P. Species present (in tables)
R. River
Res. Reservoir
RG. Ringing Group
WTW. Water Treatment Works

Birds are aged according to their calendar year, as transcribed in the table below.

Welsh Bird Report description	Non-calendar description
Juvenile	Used only in relation to birds at nest/colony
1CY	Juvenile, 1st-winter (to 31 December)
2CY	1st-winter (from 1 Jan.), 1st-summer, 2nd-winter (to 31Dec.)
3CY	2nd-winter (from 1 Jan.), 2nd-summer, 3rd-winter (to 31 Dec.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to every birdwatcher who submitted a record during 2017. This report would be nothing without you. And an even bigger thank you to the county recorders and bird report editors who compile their local reports, shared their draft reports and answered my queries so promptly.

Sections of this report were compiled by Bob Haycock (divers to shearwaters and gulls to auks), Jon Green (grebes to crakes), Rhion Pritchard (waders), Dr.Stephanie Tyler (tits to warblers) and Keith Noble (thrushes to pipits). Extra information was supplied by Dr. Ian Johnstone (RSPB Cymru), Martin Clift (RSPB Cymru), Adrienne Stratford (Cross/Stratford Welsh Chough Project) and the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme.

Thanks also to Lee Barber (British Trust for Ornithology) for compiling the Ringing Report, which returns to the Welsh Bird Report this year; to Reg Thorpe for updating the Welsh List on behalf of the Welsh Records Panel; to Kelvin Jones for organising the photographs; and to the photographers, who are credited in the captions. Special thanks to Ian Spence for producing the maps for selected species, using DMAP by Dr AJ Morton, and for undertaking the design of the Report once again. Thanks to the secretariats of BirdTrack, the Wetland Bird Survey and Breeding Bird Survey for providing the data used in the report.

Julian Hughes, Editor.

Errata from 2016

Glossy Ibis: the bird at Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park was seen on 16 Jan. and 15 Feb., and was not present for the duration of this period.

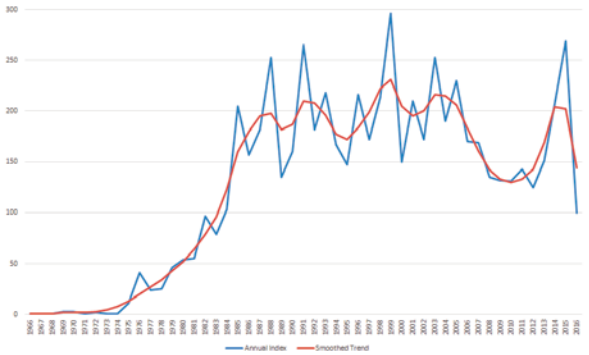
SYSTEMATIC LIST

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* **GWYDD DDU**

A regular wintering population is found in the Burry Inlet and on Anglesey. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	295	289
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Dark-bellied Brent Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2016



B.b. bernicla (Dark-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Fol-dywyll)

The recent recovery in numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey has faltered.

Monthly max. at the main sites:

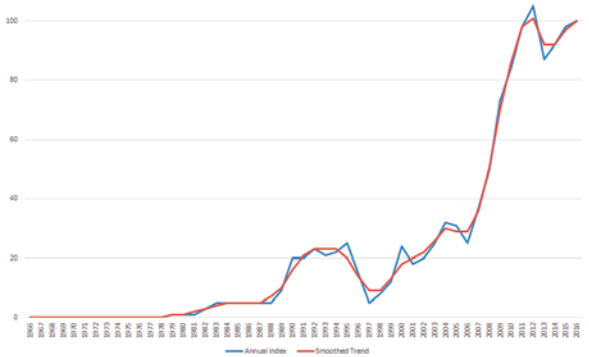
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER									
Whiteford	30	550	686				280	306	265
Weobley	465	90					249	250	
Llanrhidian	758	70	36	2		160	1	70	122
Wernffwrd/Crofty	505	360	167			28	83	246	81
Penclawdd	219						61		
CARMARTHEN									
Penclacwydd	115	269	47			6	1	150	130
Pwll	31	48		2			95		

B.b. hrota (Pale-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Fol-olau)

Numbers of pale-bellied *hrota* have stabilised after more than a decade of growth.

Large counts on ANGLESEY during the first winter period (not included in the table on page 12) from the Braint est. (max. 200 on 2 Jan.), Aberlleiniog, Malltraeth Cob, Moelfre, Dulas Bay, Traeth Bychan and Traeth Cymyran; fewer records in the second winter period from the same sites (max. 110 at Traeth Cymyran on 29 Dec.)

Wetland Bird Survey: Pale-bellied Brent Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Monthly max. at the main sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	125	72		90		23	228	80	50
Traeth Lafan	51	45	58	59			6	36	41
ANGLESEY									
Alaw estuary							40		
Beddmanarch Bay							57	371	319
Benllech		27	3						
Red Wharf Bay	10	15						5	32
Traeth Lligwy				45					
Traeth Dulas	25	21	34						25

Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding the above, are tabulated:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
bernicla	17	5	21	10	5			1		6	2	27
hrota	82	56	11	34				5	4	82	25	130
race unknown	28		1	1								

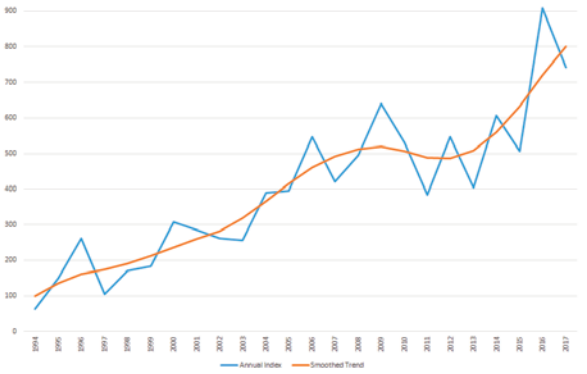
Ringing: CAERNARFON: two colour-ringed birds at Morfa Aber on 4 Jan. were ringed on their breeding grounds at Axel Heiberg Island, Canada, on 26 July 2014.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* **GWYDD CANADA**

A locally common and increasing introduced breeding resident in most counties.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	4457	3948
% of BirdTrack lists	23%	20%

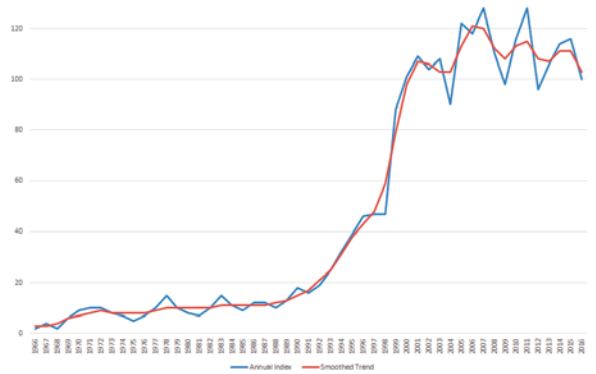
Breeding Bird Survey: Canada Goose in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The growth in breeding numbers in Wales continues, in contrast to the Wetland Bird Survey, which shows a more stable population in the last 15 years.

Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: GWENT: broods at 12 sites, the most populous being Newport Wetlands Reserve and adjacent Severn est., which held 66 goslings; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 nests at nine sites; GOWER: bred at six sites; PEMBROKE: evidence at six locations; BRECON: 2-3 nests at nine sites and many other single pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: breeding records from four sites but none confirmed; CAERNARFON: seven pairs bred at six sites (including only the fourth breeding attempt on Bardsey), and probably bred at six other sites; ANGLESEY: 19 pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 12 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; also bred at Cemlyn; DENBIGH: bred at six sites, fewer than in 2016; FLINT: bred at two sites.

Wetland Bird Survey: Greater Canada Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2016



The number of sites holding at least 300 birds (tabulated below) returns to above the 12-year mean. Highest ever site counts at seven locations in E.GLAMORGAN are noteworthy.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	125	95	26	112	16	89	109	97	264	479	262	58
Newport Wetlands Reserve	184	194	248	164	181	131	63	161	67	329	89	120
E.GLAMORGAN												
Ogmore estuary	71	74	45	20	10	P	114	325	650	200	131	139
Kenfig Pool	108	84	46	27	25	114	141	5	563	213	103	65
GOWER												
Neath Abbey	150	120	18	39		18		404		61	86	53
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	492	640	81						20		854	400
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	520	32	4					1068	850	1100	670	460
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	897	984	519						910		1138	1312
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	323	280	100	60	90	604		300	88	200	382	340
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	167	46	44						320	190	615	232
Glaslyn Marshes	170	260								350	300	
Mawddach estuary	197		136						524	108	321	
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	10			6	1	2	19	21	360			
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	20	2	55	57	18	400	255	2				52
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	57	280		62	34		155	507	515	17	5	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh		230	50	24	100	400	500	700	2000	2347	600	34
Connah's Quay NR	290	600	120	9	250	7	8	40	100			
White Sands	90	600	140	8	5	2		1500	420		100	300

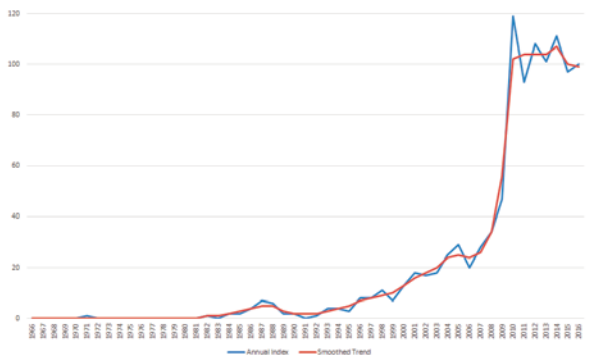
Counts of 300+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 360 in Carmarthen town on 1 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 1069 at St Dogmael's on 28 Aug. and 1500 here on 2 Dec.; DENBIGH: 300 at Gresford Flash on 3 Nov.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* **GWYDD WYRAN**

A regular winter visitor in recent years to the Dyfi est. with smaller numbers at other sites, most probably from the naturalised population breeding in Cumbria. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	198	225
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Barnacle Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Breeding: CEREDIGION: no breeding counts were received from Cardigan Island; BRECON: two pairs each had broods of four.

Non-breeding: the flock on the Dyfi est. reached a record high in December.

Approximate monthly totals for each county:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT		1	1	1	1	1			2	2		
E.GLAMORGAN	16	2	2	1		1		2	1			
GOWER				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
PEMBROKE	130		1							4		
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary*	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	328		520	528
Teifi estuary	8							102	52	80		25
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake			17			23		9	1			
MEIRIONNYDD		2	2**							3	17*	
CAERNARFON			2**							2	1	
ANGLESEY	13	1	3		1			9	8	8		
DENBIGH			2			2						
FLINT		11	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	19	19	17

*part of flock also recorded in CEREDIGION, MEIRIONNYDD and MONTGOMERY.
** on MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON border.

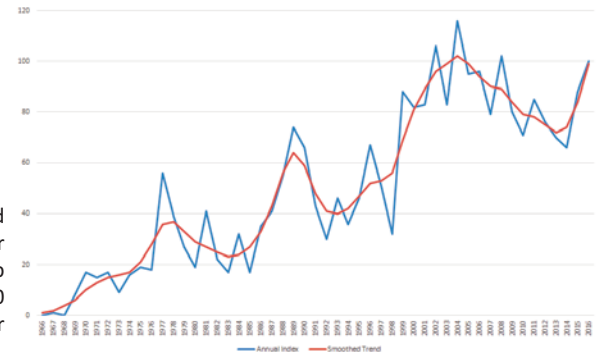
GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* **GWYDD WYLLT**

Most records relate to naturalised birds, mainly in the north, but increasing farther south.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1572	1690
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	8%

Breeding: GWENT: at least two broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve; probably bred at Glan Llyn; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at Tirfounder Fields and Kenfig Pool; GOWER: one brood at Oxwich; CARMARTHEN: one brood at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: confirmed on the Carew/Cresswell stretch of the Cleddau est.; BRECON: one, paired with a Canada Goose, nested in a Red Kite nest by the R.Usk at Pencelli (failed); CAERNARFON: single broods at Morfa Madryn and Llyn Tan-y-foel, and a pair at Llyn Ystumllyn; ANGLESEY: broods at seven sites, including chicks from 60 pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga and 33 pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: broods at five sites; post-breeding flock at Llyn Brenig included 120 juveniles on 22 July; FLINT: broods at three sites.

Wetland Bird Survey: Greylag Goose in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Numbers counted by the Wetland Bird Survey almost returned to their 2004/05 high following a ten-year dip and the number of counts over 100 (below) was on par with the 10-year average.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr					4		30	132	63			
Llanrhidian Marsh			5					120	105	80		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	85	55	72	49	67	71	46	62	256	268	82	30
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	66	63	20			29			65	54	250	154
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	107	3	8	8	7	10	188	209	139	16	230	40
FLINT												
Clwyd estuary	348	18		4	6		133	480	200	500		

Counts of 100+ elsewhere: GOWER: 200 over Hillend on 28 Aug.; 230 at Overton on 14 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 120 at Sprinkle on 7 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 100 at Llangybi in Nov.; ANGLESEY: 210 at Llyn Llywenan on 5 July; 350 at Rhoscolyn on 20 Aug.; 400 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 19 Oct.; DENBIGH: peak of 169 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 27 Feb. and 426 here on 18 Dec.; peak of 650 at Gresford Flash on 3 Nov.; FLINT: 150 at Ffynnongroyw on 10 Sept.; 477 at Talacre Dunes on 19 Nov.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* **GWYDD DROED-BINC**

Regular on the Dee est. (Flintshire), in growing numbers since 2010. Elsewhere, a scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to north Wales. Spring and summer records relate to feral birds, as may some winter and autumn records. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	90	192
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Peak counts on the Dee est., FLINT, were lower than in recent years, with 3500 at White Sands on 23 March and 3000 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 29 Nov. The numbers seen elsewhere were much lower than usual, only the second sub-100 total in the last 12 years.

Away from the Dee, county totals in each month:

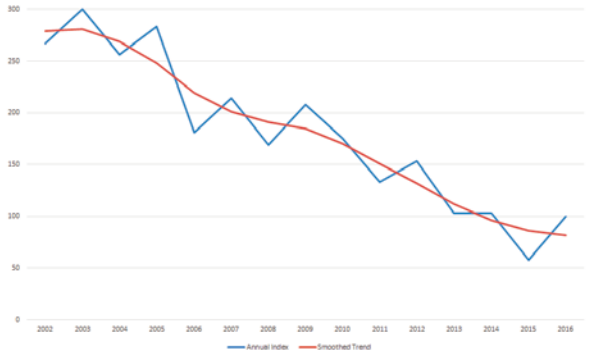
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN				1						
CARMARTHEN		1						15		
CEREDIGION	4			3						
MEIRIONNYDD								12		
CAERNARFON	7									
ANGLESEY	4	6		1				1		1
DENBIGH			1					12		
FLINT	4							1		

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* **GWYDD DALCEN-WEN**

Scarce winter visitor; Ceredigion supports the only regular flock of flavirostris. Rare elsewhere, though hard weather can result in increases in albifrons from the east. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	41	47
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Greenlnd White-fronted Goose in Wales, 2002 - 2016



***A.a. flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcen-wen yr Ynys Las)**

There is a long-term decline in this race, with a flyway population of just 22,000 birds. Low breeding productivity is a fundamental problem, but Welsh Government's decision to end hunting in 2019 will improve the birds' condition prior to their return migration. Wales' sole regular wintering population (on the Dyfi est.) remains desperately small, though numbers were slightly higher here than in 2016 and counts elsewhere were higher than for many years, with small wintering populations in Anglesey and Flintshire.

All records: PEMBROKE: eight over Skomer on 29 Oct.; seven in Marloes area on 4 Nov.; CEREDIGION: max. count 19 (on 19 Jan.) and 25 (from 20 Nov. to 31 Dec.), including six juveniles, indicating a reasonable breeding season; one at Llanon on 11 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at Ynys Crossing saltings on 16 Nov. part of the Dyfi est. flock; CAERNARFON: 13 over Bardsey, flying towards the Republic of Ireland, on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 14 at Malltraeth Cob on 24 Feb., also at Llanddaniel and RSPB Cors Ddyga in March; nine over RSPB Cors Ddyga on 14 Sept., five over here on 14 Oct. and 13-15 in Nov.-Dec., also seen at Llyn Coron; FLINT: nine wintered at Talacre/Gwespyr from 18 Nov. into 2017.

***A.a. albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcen-wen Ewrop)**

All records: GWENT: 2CY at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 1-2 April; DENBIGH: two at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, between 6 Feb. and 27 March; one at Gresford Flash between 13 Nov. and 5 Dec.; FLINT: two on the Clwyd est. on 7 Jan. and one here on 1 Feb.; on the Dee, one at White Sands on 28 Feb., at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30-31 Oct. then RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands between 11 Nov. and 16 Dec.

Records not sub-specifically reported: CARMARTHEN: one at Cilsan Bridge on 10 Feb.; six off Pwll on 2 March; two off Pembrey Saltings on 17 March; PEMBROKE: four over Skomer on 27 Oct., then flocks of

12, 15 and nine here on 29 Oct., and 13 on 2 Nov.

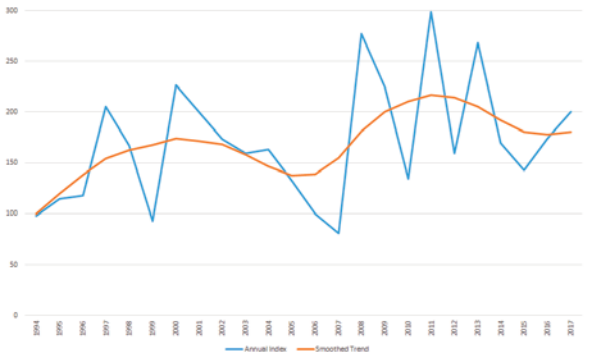
Breeding: MEIRIONNYDD: a presumed White-fronted Goose x Canada Goose hybrid was on Llyn Tegid on 19 Feb.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* **ALARCH DOF**

Resident breeding species, now increasing in most counties. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	4734	3967
% of BirdTrack lists	25%	21%

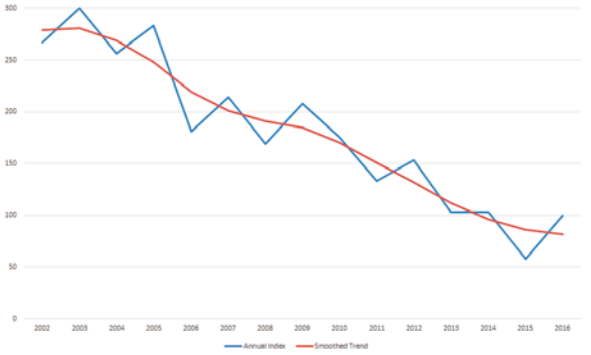
Breeding Bird Survey: Mute Swan in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Breeding counts (not full surveys except Gower): GWENT: 20 pairs/nests, of which 10 had cygnets; E.GLAMORGAN: 18 pairs bred at 15 sites; GOWER: of 11 pairs, nine hatched 40 cygnets, of which 32 survived to autumn; CARMARTHEN: four pairs at three sites; PEMBROKE: confirmed at six sites; CEREDIGION: single pair at two sites; BRECON: seven nests at Llangorse Lake, hatching five broods; single nests at eight other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: brood on Broadwater was the only confirmed pair; CAERNARFON: four nests and four probable breeding pairs; ANGLESEY: bred at six sites; DENBIGH: broods at two sites; FLINT: bred at three sites.

Following an almost uninterrupted increase since the early 1980s, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has dropped back significantly since 2010, to its turn-of-the century level, while the Breeding Bird Survey index has also fallen during this decade, but less markedly.

Wetland Bird Survey: Mute Swan in Wales, 1996 - 2016



The number of sites holding >40 birds at least once during the year (listed below) remains stable, but the frequency of the species' appearance on BirdTrack lists has fallen back from last year's peak.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
St Brides	60	74	45	56	19	18	11	13	20	24	51	61
Magor Marsh	29	25	45	48	12	11	6	5		21		22
E.GLAMORGAN												
Roath Park Lake	53	63	46	62		50	70	57	57	55	75	80
Cardiff Bay	30	30	31	64	120	199	191	129	91		31	26
Cosmeston Lakes CP	34	45	47	51	33	30	30	31	30	36	31	30
Knap, Barry	39	40	28	22	28	25	20	31	26	27	29	
Ogmore estuary	8	4	17	12	42	12	3	3	6	17	17	18
CARMARTHEN												
Dryslwyn/Cilsan	47	32	35			18	40				26	
Sandy Water Park	12	17	17	29	29	64	58	46	38	13	13	8
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	87	50	40		97	148	172	172	176	137	79	73
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	24	19	7	5	43	69	87	71	123	71	11	4
FLINT												
Shotwick	68	79										
White Sands	6										60	

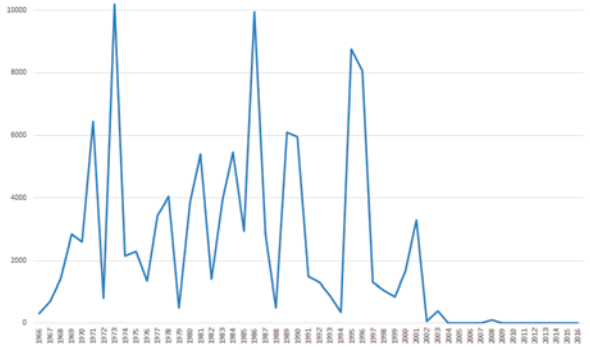
Counts of 40+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 40 at Llyn Cefni on 1 July and 53 here on 13th; FLINT: 139 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 1 Jan.; 50 at Deeside Industrial Park on 2 Jan.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus* **ALARCH BEWICK**

***I**rregular winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Red-listed.*

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	13	59
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Bewick's Swan in Wales, 1966 - 2016



This is the lowest number in Wales since records began. As in 2016, recorded from only two regular sites, with the Gwent flock continuing to decline. All records are significant since Bewick's Swan has barely registered on Wetland Bird Survey counts since 2002.

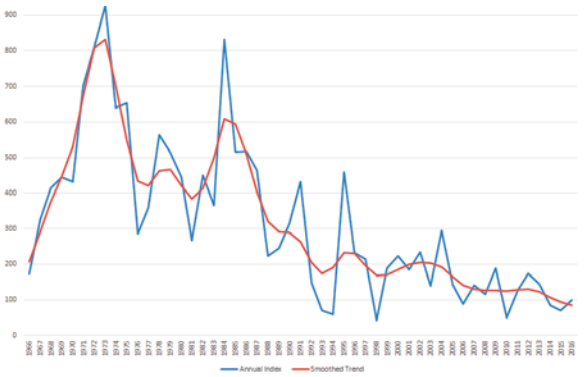
All records: GWENT: max. counts in Usk Valley between Newbridge and Llanowell were nine on 25 Jan. and four during 14-27 Dec. (*cf.* max. 14 in 2016); present at Llandegfedd Res. on 30 Nov.; GOWER: one at Glynneath on 27 Nov.; CEREDIGION: three at RSPB Ynys-hir on 23 Feb.; FLINT: on the Dee est., max. counts 23 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 8 Jan. and nine at White Sands on 12 March.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* **ALARCH Y GOGLEDD**

***R**egular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties, notably Anglesey, Caernarfon, Montgomery and Meirionnydd. Wales Green listed.*

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	103	201
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Whooper Swan in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Although there was a slight increase in counts in 2016/17, the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey trend has reached a new low.

Counts from most of the main wintering sites were up on 2016 but included very few first-years, suggesting a poor breeding season:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN									
Tywi Valley	56*	48	50				10	47	48
CEREDIGION									
Cors Caron	9							5	3
MEIRIONNYDD									
Glaslyn river	56	45	28	14			33	19	47
ANGLESEY									
RSPB Cors Ddyga	20						8	13	8
FLINT									
Dee estuary	47	28	12				7	46	P

*county record.

Elsewhere, county totals in each month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT								2
E.GLAMORGAN						4	12	
CARMARTHEN			1					2
PEMBROKE	2		1			20	11	1
CEREDIGION	24	10				15	16	
BRECON	10							
RADNOR	12	12				4		
MEIRIONNYDD						4	17	12
CAERNARFON		2	1			3	14	1
ANGLESEY	37	7	38	1		16	19	50
DENBIGH	1		1			1		2
FLINT	1	1	3	1		3		2

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca* **GWYDD YR AIFFT**

Introduced. Despite the increase in numbers and range in England, records in Wales remain scarce.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	17	45
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

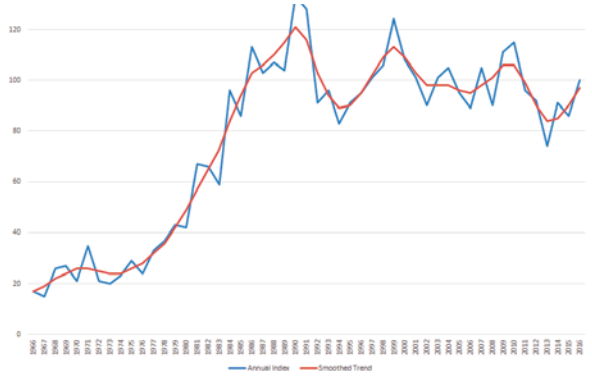
The highest number in Wales for a decade: GWENT: pair throughout the year at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), one wandering to Magor Marsh and Llanwern; singles at Gobion on 4 March, Dingestow Court Lake on 10 April and Llandegfedd Res. in April-May; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Tirfounder Fields on 21 April; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 26 June; DENBIGH: one at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 27 Feb. and 6 March; three at Rhyl brickworks on 22 Sept., presumed same at White Sands on 4 Oct. and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 14 and 17 Oct.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* **HWYADEN YR EITHIN**

A locally common breeding resident in coastal areas, but rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3150	3115
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	16%

Wetland Bird Survey: Shelduck in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Breeding: GWENT: four broods at two sites; possibly bred at two other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: six broods at four sites; GOWER: single broods at two sites; nine pairs at three other locations; CARMARTHEN: bred at two sites; CEREDIGION: bred at three extensive sites; PEMBROKE: 13 pairs/broods at five locations, including seven recorded by the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group, a continued long-term decline; MEIRIONNYDD: three broods at two sites, though several more possible pairs; CAERNARFON: four broods at two sites; six pairs at four other sites; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at five sites and possibly at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: five broods seen on Conwy est. adjacent to RSPB Conwy; FLINT: single brood on the Dee est., several seen on the Clwyd est.

Non-breeding: the number of sites holding flocks of 100 birds (on page 21) has been stable for the last seven years following a substantial increase the previous decade.

Counts of 100+ not included in the table: GOWER: 120 at Dalton's Pt, Penclawdd, on 3 Jan. and 611 here on 4 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 150 on the R.Carew on 12 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 400 on the Cefni est. and 140 on the Inland Sea on 2 Jan.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Great Wharf	33	160	15	15	16	20	10	5	9	176	129	26
Peterstone Pill	77	92	95	51	43	172	66	170	291	176	170	76
St Brides	150	44	65	4	12	48	74	94	46	439	320	316
Newport Wetlands Reserve	151	209	172	247	178	164	252	267	412	380	124	334
Undy	350	504	211	118	12	110	23	7	69	59	64	54
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	120	140	158	55	26			4	172	600		
GOWER												
Whiteford	278	69		110	41	4			2	10	155	176
Weobley	450	3	47	60	7	28	2			257	141	
Llanrhidian	131	142	49	60	8	16					9	30
Wernffrwd/Crofty	430	248	310	126	1	10	36				166	158
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	197	138	211	191	143	149	48	14	15	30	205	481
Taf estuary	107	114	25							4	65	37
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	324	328	177						17		209	297
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	115	16	72						7	18	75	125
Broadwater	18	30	57	108	150				4	53		
CAERNARFON												
Y Foryd	120	211	112	47	32	32	6	4	9	4	22	86
Traeth Lafan	586	397	425	81	96	12	14	17	9	65	303	243
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	6	55	79	157	99	50	1			12	14	12
FLINT												
Rhuddlan, R.Clwyd	97	115		170	116	126	17	8		38	80	100
RSPB Point of Ayr	127	48	115	80	109	100	28	8	800	2315	281	183
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	34	200	50	150	120	1200	220	50	150	1000	40	40
Ffynnongroyw Bay		3	23	140	6	7	22	73	400	600	300	39

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* **HWYADEN GRIBOG**

Scarce, but increasing, breeding resident.

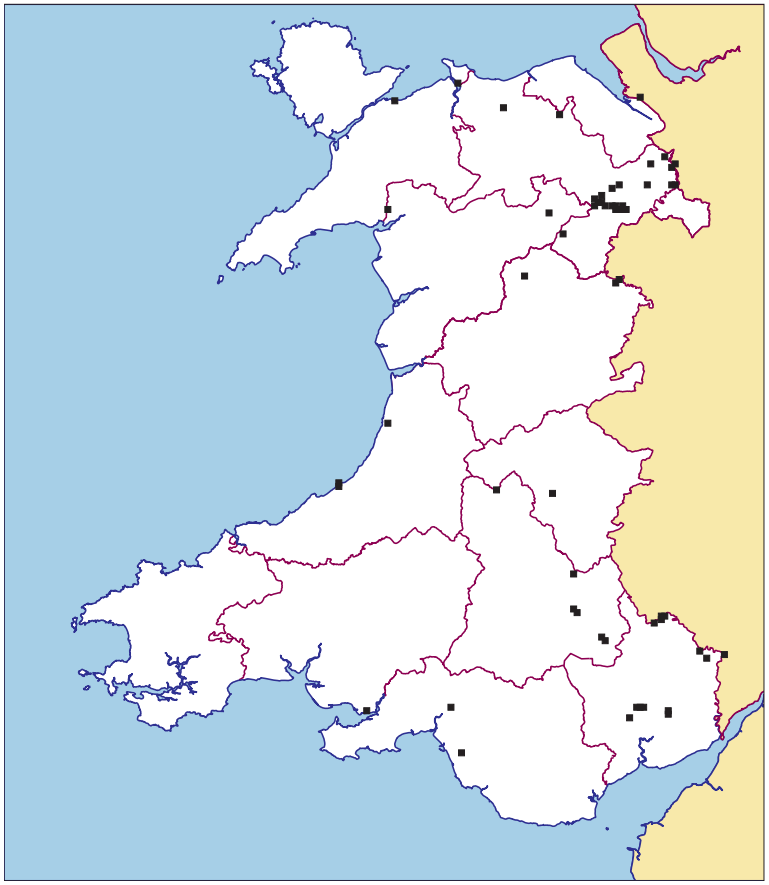
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	172	184
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

In eastern counties, records are now too numerous to merit individual mention in county reports, but the flock sizes below indicate how abundant this species must be. Breeding tends to take place on rivers that are not frequently visited, so 15+ nesting pairs/broods reported greatly under-represents a species that will breed along well-vegetated river banks that are hard to monitor.

Breeding pairs: GWENT: bred near Great Goytre and Osbaston, with many other sightings on the R.Monnow; GOWER: brood on R.Neath at Aberdulais; BRECON: pairs at several sites along the R.Elan and R.Wye; 2-3 broods on the Wye around Llyswen in July; MEIRIONNYDD: pair on the R.Dee at Corwen; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: probably bred at Pont Croesor; DENBIGH: four broods in the Dee valley between Llangollen and Chirk.

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Mandarin Duck (n = 59)



Other records:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	108											
E.GLAMORGAN				1	1				2		1	1
GOWER	4		4	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
CARMARTHEN												
PEMBROKE												
CEREDIGION	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
BRECON	1	61	8	1	1	1	1	1	3	4	1	
MONTGOMERY	Individual counts not provided											
MEIRIONNYDD			7		1						1	
CAERNARFON				3	1							
ANGLESEY						1	1					
DENBIGH	recorded on 2.8% of BirdTrack lists											
FLINT				5								

Counts above include large groups: GWENT: on the R.Monnow: 14 at Osbaston on 1 March and 46 on 22 Dec., 24 at Brooksholm on 29 Sept.; 20 at Brockweir on the R.Wye on 12 Oct.; up to 36 in mid-Nov; 22 at Llandegfedd Res. on 6 Dec.; BRECON: 60 at Dolymynach Res. on 15 Feb.; RADNOR: max. count 67 on the Elan Valley Res. in Jan.-Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 41 on the R.Vyrnwy at Meifod on 19 Nov.; DENBIGH: 21 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 4 Sept. and 31 here on 11 Dec.

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula* **HWYADEN ADDFAIN**

Recorded in small numbers on passage. There have been only five confirmed Welsh breeding attempts, and only one since 1991. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	152	120
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

No evidence of breeding, despite several 'pairs'. 28 records involving 46 birds is on a par with the recent average (total in the table below is higher as some birds occurred in more than one month).

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
GWENT	3		3	1				
E.GLAMORGAN	4	2	2			1	2	1
GOWER		1	2			4	2	
CARMARTHEN		4						
PEMBROKE	2							
CEREDIGION	2	2	1					
BRECON		1						
RADNOR				2				
MEIRIONNYDD		1						
ANGLESEY*	2	4	8				1	
DENBIGH					1			
FLINT			2					

*present at RSPB Cors Ddyga during March to 13 May (max. count four males and two females on 7 May).

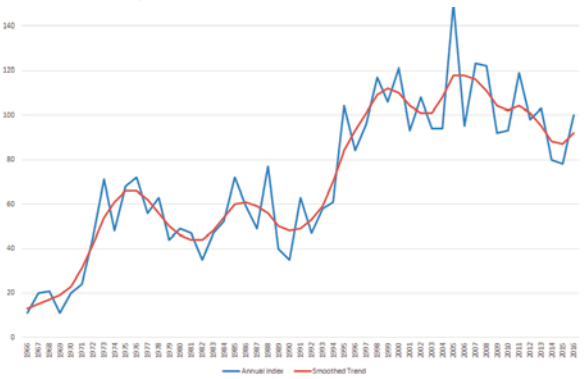
SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata* **HWYADEN LYDANBIG**

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. Breeds in small, but increasing, numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1044	1271
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

The number of breeding pairs was typical of recent years: GWENT: one brood at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); PEMBROKE: four pairs bred on Skomer, one on Skokholm and possibly bred at Marloes Mere; ANGLESEY: bred successfully on the R.Crigyll, at RSPB Cors Ddyga (21 males present) and RSPB Valley Wetlands (14 males present).

Wetland Bird Survey: Shoveler in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Non-breeding: the recent decline in the Wetland Bird Survey index (on page 23) was arrested in 2016/17.

Counts of 50+ at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Pill	42	25	24	5				5	48	98	18	29
Newport Wetlands Reserve	64	114	170	98	11	10	2	17	22	61	88	127
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	125	152	15									
GOWER												
Salthouse Point/Pill	121	190	147							63		
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	132	136	37	29	3	5	2	14	16	3	16	150
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	41	55	10	2	2					3	20	53
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill	10	2	8	9						48	99	78

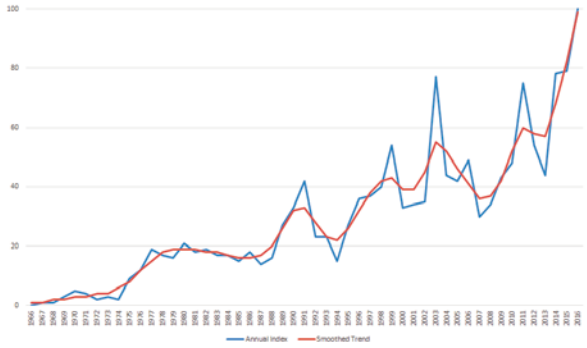
Counts of 50+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 100 at RSPB Valley Wetlands on 2 Jan.; 70 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 Dec. following a flood event.

GADWALL *Mareca strepera* **HWYADEN LWYD**

Regular breeding bird in small numbers on Anglesey, Carmarthen and sporadically elsewhere. A regular winter visitor to most counties in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1131	1331
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Wetland Bird Survey: Gadwall in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Typical number of nesting pairs/broods reported in the breeding season: GWENT: three pairs bred at Llanwern; GOWER: bred at Staffal Haegr and Kenfig reedbeds; CARMARTHEN: 11 pairs fledged 66 young at Penclacwydd; BRECON: two pairs summered at Llangorse Lake; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands (29 males); probably bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga (25 males); may have bred at Rhoscolyn; FLINT: one brood at Shotton Paper Mill. Birdwatchers are urged to report all breeding season records to their county recorder.

Non-breeding: as elsewhere in the UK, wintering Gadwalls in Wales have increased markedly since the late 1980s, but few sites hold large numbers, measured by the Wetland Bird Survey.

Monthly max. (>20), at the sites below, are in line with the last decade.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Llanwern steelworks	33	17	11	5	6	17	10		1	8	15	2
Newport Wetlands Reserve	16	22	16	10	18	10	4	3				2
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	63	79*	35	22	5			12	14	25	48	64
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	40	21	14	16	43	11	12	75	57	96		
Oxwich Marsh	25		4		1					1	16	1
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	75	98	47	45	61	72	31	63	66	92	96	125
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	51	49	21	4	1			4	12	6	15	23
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	8	9	33	18	10	13	9	10	5	37	20	43
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill	61	20	36	15		33				36	39	23

*county record

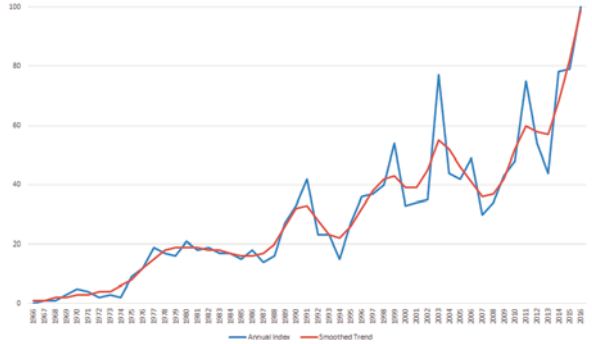
Counts of 20+ elsewhere: CARMARTHEN: 36 at Ashpits Pond on 22 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Llyn Penrhyn on 11 Nov.; 20 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 29 Nov.; FLINT: 21 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 21 Jan. and 55 here on 14 June.

WIGEON *Mareca penelope* **CHWIWELL**

Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Small numbers breed, usually in northwest Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1912	2097
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	10%

Wetland Bird Survey: Wigeon in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Breeding: ANGLESEY: five present (four males) throughout summer at RSPB Cors Ddyga but no evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: Wigeon numbers wintering in Wales bounced back in 2016/17 following a decade of decline (Wetland Bird Survey).

The number of sites holding 300+ birds at least once during the year (on page 26) was lower than in the last few years, but close to the 12-year average.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Nedern Wetland	165	320	88	1						8	52	14
Peterstone Pill	400	300	210	46						148	35	135
Newport Wetland Reserve	2000	1440	1044	32	1	1			40	444	784	1380
GOWER												
Whiteford	1360	2016	2						168	840	260	
Wernffrwd/Crofty	197	176	19						31	300	65	360
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth estuary	8	130							2	150	69	450
Dinefwr Ponds	43	321	112							5	66	145
Taf estuary	79	553										58
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	2609	3000	320						89	2300	3380	3382
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	247	343	288	2					9	21	80	168
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater	254	1	320	20					100	25	250	
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	428	384	28						16	472	653	689
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1965	1814	1145	17	4			18	250+	1727	1820	632
Foryd	1680	2340	520	6	2		1	1	920	1570	3200	3340
DENBIGH												
Clwyd estuary	318	643	54	2	1			1	17	100	600	745
FLINT												
Llawndy, Point of Ayr	267	330	801								159	367
Connah's Quay NR	560	320	10	4	3	3	2	2	125		2500	230
White Sands	700	38	720								4	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	600	100	330	45		2					4000	2000

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: GOWER: 450 at Weobley on 21 Jan. and 400 here on 29 Oct.; 411 at Upper Loughor on 31 Jan.; PEMBROKE: max. count 5000+ at Pennar on 23 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 382 at Traeth Dulas on 18 Jan. and 336 here on 11 Dec.; 1000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 26 Nov. during a flood event; DENBIGH: 370 at Kinmel Bay on 4 Feb.; FLINT: 5500 at Flint on 27 Nov.

Hybrid: ANGLESEY: probable x Mallard at Cemlyn from March to 21 April.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Mareca americana* **CHWIWELL AMERICA**

Rare visitor to Wales from North America. On WRP list. 22 previous records.

PEMBROKE: male on the Gann est. from 21 Jan. to 9 March.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* **HWYADEN WYLLT**

Common and widespread breeding resident, abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales Amber listed.

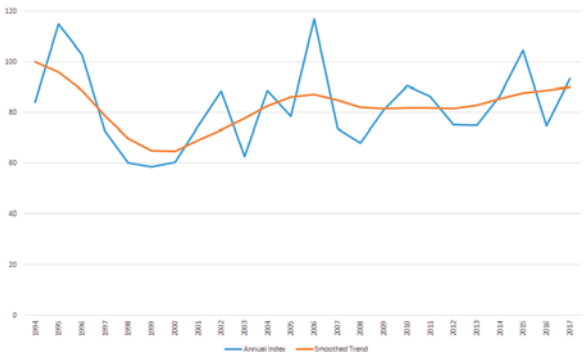
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	7971	7102
% of BirdTrack lists	42%	38%

The Breeding Bird Survey index continues its slow upward trend of the last two decades, in contrast to the WeBS index for Wales that has fallen 40% during the same period. Records in bird reports are likely to be unrepresentative of the breeding population.

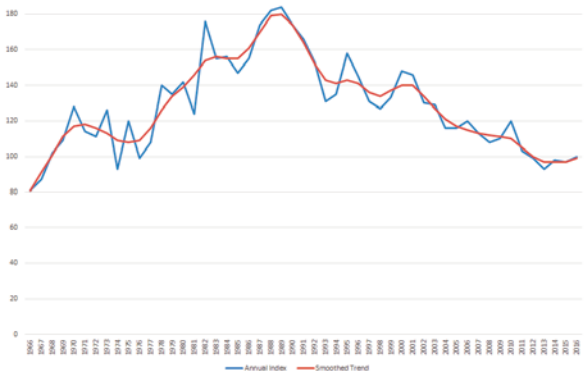
The number of sites with a count of 200+ birds during the year is the lowest since before 2005, with two sites in Brecknockshire dropping out of the table this year

Counts of 200+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 250 at Llanddyfnan on 3 and 21 Nov.; DENBIGH: 300 at Hafoty in the lower Conwy Valley on 28 Aug. were probably released for shooting.

Breeding Bird Survey: Mallard in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Wetland Bird Survey: Mallard in Wales, 1966 - 2016



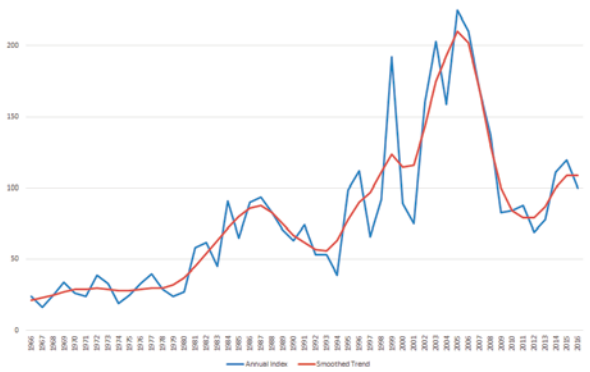
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone/St Brides	88	78	63	39	64	120	169	227	64	136	99	113
Newport Wetland Reserve	108	69	87	61	55	160	218	167	283	151	112	71
Mon-Brec Canal (14 Locks to Pontywaun)	127	136	121							107	279	299
GOWER												
Upper Loughor estuary	12			10			66	255	253			
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	252	273	148	140	196	177	239	422	388	300	366	455
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	48	6	33		200	350	115	500	325	131	327	115
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	303	214	172	32	20	45	197	348	247	285	214	181
Foryd	58	34	12	13	51	110	194	270	210	60	50	42
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	40	40		90	280	150	100	60	80	100	40	160
Connah's Quay NR	34	22	9	8	200	130	83	30	40	8		
White Sands	4	2	840	8	12	63		20	75		14	

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* **HWYADEN LOSTFAIN**

Occasional passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor to some counties, but scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	482	547
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Pintail in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Non-breeding: numbers on the Burry Inlet SPA have halved compared to the middle of the last decade, whereas the Dee estuary population (which is mostly found on the English side) has recovered following a more recent dip. These are the two most important sites in Britain for Pintails and helped to boost the Wetland Bird Survey index from its recent low.

Counts of 80+ not included in the table below: MEIRIONNYDD: max. count 145 at Ynys on 28 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 150 on the Cefni est. on 2 Jan.; 105 on the Alaw est. on 12 Jan.; 103 on the Inland Sea on 21 Feb.

Sites holding 80+ birds at least once during the year:

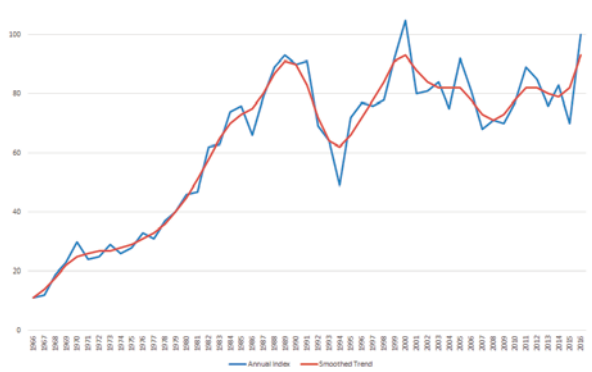
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT											
Peterstone Pill	273	98	155	95	3			134	160	133	218
E.GLAMORGAN											
Cardiff foreshore	75	91	38								
Rhymney estuary	35	131	67	6							
GOWER											
Whiteford	860	48						8	225	180	60
Weobley	390	40						250	30	200	
Llanrhidian	371		35						180		
Wernffrwdd/Salthouse		800	56					16		506	16
Dalton's Point	1122	238	12					47	74	7	185
CARMARTHEN											
Penclacwydd	1038	80	6	10	1			27	3	11	355
Gwendraeth estuary			150					1	17	1	3
CEREDIGION											
Ynyslas/Leri estuary	400	370	150							231	320
MEIRIONNYDD											
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	690	100	40						34	22	110
CAERNARFON											
Foryd	160	253	71	21				8	76	160	90
Traeth Lafan	200	94	58	4				70	150	60	102
FLINT											
RSPB Point of Ayr	320	320	74	2				1	5	235	250
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	400	2000	2000	27					800	20	4
White Sands	700	42	9							1	

TEAL *Anas crecca* **CORHWYADEN**

Small numbers breed in the uplands, otherwise a widespread and abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2678	2742
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	13%

Wetland Bird Survey: Teal in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Typical number of breeding records: CEREDIGION: bred at RSPB Ynys-hir and Cors Fochno, and possibly at Camddwr Pool; BRECON: cast feathers by a moorland pool on Drygarn Fawr in June may indicate nesting; MEIRIONNYDD: single at Tanyrallt on 3 May in suitable mire habitat; CAERNARFON: brood near Foel Boeth; DENBIGH: brood on Llyn Aled; ANGLESEY: possibly bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga (three males).

Non-breeding Teal numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey have been fairly stable since the late 1980s.

Counts of 300+ birds recorded at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	401	507	336	132	5	5	37	130	150	181	191	450
Peterstone Pill	259	510	150	45			3	3	10	15	40	195
GOWER												
Weobley	450	3	47	60	7	28	2			257		35
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	52	58	17	22	7	3	7	18	67	62	53	347
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	457	336	261						18		833	862
Cors Caron	465	498	262								694	338
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	25	229	112	26				13	122	144	471	297
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	327	87	66	12	2		1	2	22	101	59	21
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR	224	30	74	42			3	500	180	366	20	48
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	300	100	200	91				20	1000	1000	100	30

Counts of 300+ elsewhere: PEMBROKE: max. 1000 at Landshipping on 24 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 900 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 Dec. following flood event; FLINT: 386 on the Clwyd est. on 5 Dec.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* **CORHWYADEN ASGELL-WERDD**

Rare visitor from North America; On WRP list; 38 previous records.

FLINT: male at Connah's Quay NR on 6 Feb.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* **HWYADEN GRIBGOCH**

Naturalised breeding species in England, with over 300 in Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire, but scarce in Wales with few records in recent years (four during 2011-16).

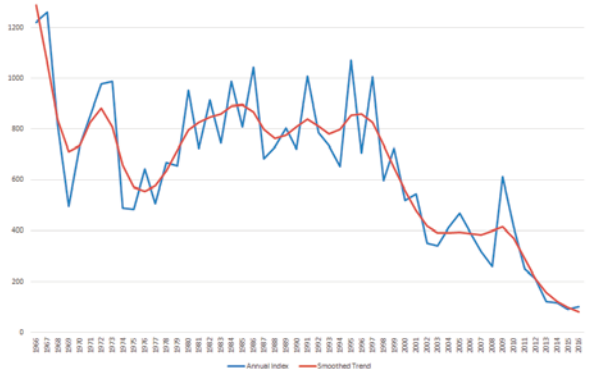
BRECON: eclipse male at Llangorse Lake from 31 Aug. to 31 Dec. at least.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* **HWYADEN BENGOCH**

Breeds in small numbers in several counties, otherwise a declining winter visitor, chiefly to southern coastal counties and passage migrant. Wales Red-listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	919	622
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Pochard in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Breeding: the eight broods reported here is similar to 2016, but below the 12-year average: CARMARTHEN: six pairs fledged 23 young at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: bred successfully at RSPB Valley Wetlands (30 males present) and Llyn Llywenan; probably bred at Llyn Maelog; possibly bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga (four males present).

Non-breeding: Pochard numbers have fallen dramatically in recent decades (e.g. only three birds in PEMBROKE and one in CEREDIGION this year).

Monthly max. (20+ birds) at just six sites (*cf.* 21 sites in 2010), with no flocks >100 birds for the first time.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Ynysfro Res.	20	25	3	2	1				1	34	33	43
E.GLAMORGAN												
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	30	34	8	1	1	3	12	4	4	6	12	36
Cosmeston Lakes CP	57	29	6					1		7	14	16
Kenfig Pool	62	69	29	3				1	4	22	39	66
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.				1	1	5	5	12	15		6	25
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	14	12	25	16	14	28	7		11	4	5	6

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: ANGLESEY: 30 at Llyn Cefni on 5 Oct.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* **HWYADEN DORCHOG**

Rare visitor from North America. On WRP list; 40 previous records.

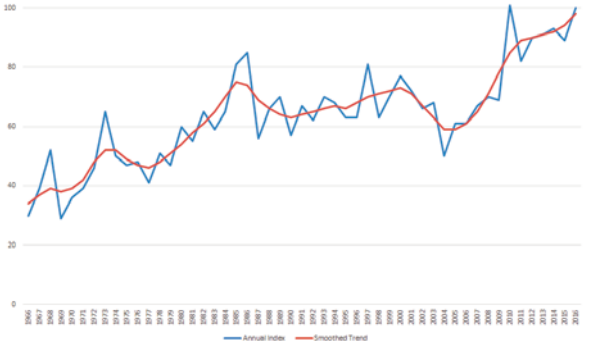
E.GLAMORGAN: male at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 27 March, then Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 5-17 April; CARMARTHEN: female at Penclacwydd from 12 Dec. into 2018 is presumed to be the same bird seen the previous day in Brecon; CEREDIGION: female at Cors Caron on 1 Jan., then Llyn Glandwgan on 16 Feb. and 4 March, with a brief foray to Llyn Rhosrhydd on 17 Feb.; BRECON: female at Llangorse Lake on 11 Dec.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* **HWYADEN GOPOG**

Resident breeding species in small numbers in several Welsh counties and a locally common winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2623	2273
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	11%

Wetland Bird Survey: Tufted Duck in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Breeding: GWENT: eight broods at four sites; E.GLAMORGAN: seven pairs bred at five sites; GOWER: five broods at three sites; CARMARTHEN: five pairs bred at two sites; CEREDIGION: single broods at three sites; MEIRIONNYDD: brood at Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: pair bred at Parc Menai; ANGLESEY: bred at Llyn Llywenan, Llyn Rhos Ddu (two broods), RSPB Cors Ddyga (15 males) and RSPB Valley Wetlands (53 males); DENBIGH: brood at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: bred at two sites.

Non-breeding: numbers in Wales have increased in the last decade, in contrast to declines in Northern Ireland.

Counts of 50+ not included in the table on page 32: ANGLESEY: 121 at Llyn Cefni on 22 March, and 200 here on 7 Nov.

The number of sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year is the lowest for a decade.

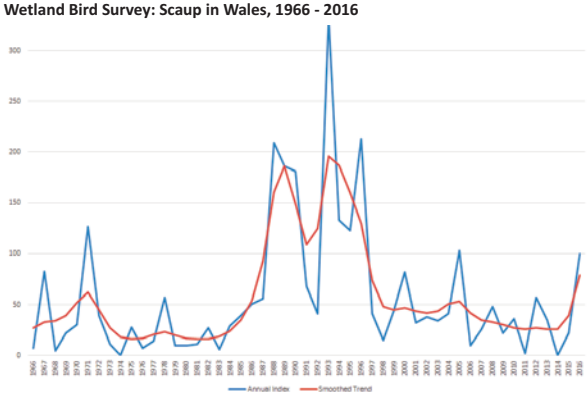
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Bryn Bach Park	48	65	35	28	12	7	3		22	19	27	40
Llandegfedd Res.	41					1	5	31	45	54	15	16
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool	84	102	87	91	1	1	2	6	19	62	56	76
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	88	113	122	72	7	20	137	122	39	12	11	52
Roath Park Lake	174	136	108	19		7	13	10	47	39	72	147
Bute East Dock	55	61	36	12				1			24	65
Cardiff Bay	437	225	112	52	19	27	11	33	50	72	126	181
Cosmeston Lakes CP	186	250	41	15	6		2	5	22	70	90	276
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.		70		34	13	12	35	151	146		12	63
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	65	56	55	60	75	66	23	18	37	64	50	63
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	190	133	120	5					4	130	305	238
MEIRIONNYDD												
Llyn Trawsfynydd	37	79			12							
FLINT												
Shotton Paper Mill	45	84	72	117		67				18	129	25
Brickfields Pond, Rhyl	63	75	42	16	5	8	15	8	15	60	50	59

SCAUP *Aythya marila* **HWYADEN BENDDU**

Scarce and local winter visitor, also recorded on passage. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	222	410
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Scaup in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Non-breeding: never abundant, Scaup numbers in Wales have returned to 1970s levels thanks to good numbers on Anglesey's Inland Sea and on the Severn est. in the first winter period.

Max. counts in each county by month peaked in Feb. with 97 birds, the highest for many years, almost half of which were in the Burry Inlet, Carmarthenshire.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	4	1	1		1	1				1		
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	9	9	9	2								
Kenfig Pool	4	3	4							1	2	
elsewhere	1		2	3								
GOWER												
Burry Inlet	35	40	40							2	13	
elsewhere	1									9		
CARMARTHEN		9			3			1		1		11
PEMBROKE	4										4	4
CEREDIGION	1	1	1						1	1	1	
BRECON	1	1	1							3		1
MONTGOMERY												
MEIRIONNYDD	6	1								2		2
CAERNARFON	7	7	11		1							
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	8	17	10	4	2					1	9	14
elsewhere			1	1						7		4
DENBIGH	2	5	2							2	2	2
FLINT	3	3	3	2						2	5	4

KING EIDER *Somateria spectabilis* **HWYADEN FWYTHBLU'R GOGLEDD**

Rare vagrant from Arctic. On WRP list. One previous record in Wales (in 1989-90).

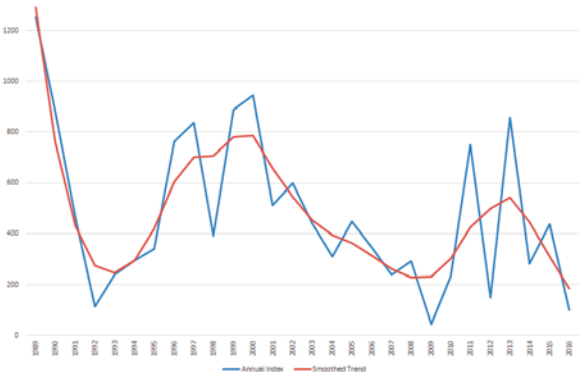
CEREDIGION: first-summer female initially found off Aberaeron on 26-29 June was then relocated at Ynyslas/R.Leri area on 4 July and seen on dates to the end of the year, remaining into 2018; MEIRIONNYDD: same individual at Aberdyfi on 9 July and at Aberdysynni on 26 and 28 Aug.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* **HWYADEN FWYTHBLU**

Scarce winter visitor, with regular breeding only in the Menai Strait. Wintering numbers fell dramatically in early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	122	124
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Eider in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Breeding: CAERNARFON: 3-4 broods around Aber Ogwen; ANGLESEY: birds at Penmon Pt (40 on 1 April, 23 on 24 May) suggests breeding nearby, most likely on Puffin Island.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey has issued a High Alert for Eiders wintering in Wales, with a 74% decline in the last 25 years. 2017

counts in the Burry Inlet were the lowest for many years, and the fall at Aberdysynni, Meirionnydd, is even more marked, where three-figure counts were not uncommon in the previous decade. Only in the Menai Strait do Eiders appear to be holding their own.

The monthly maxima in the principal wintering sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Whiteford	38	50	42	24	22	20	13	8		50	26	57
MEIRIONNYDD												
Broadwater and coast	15	4			10		1	1				2
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	14	2	3	8	25	29	47	53	16	9	10	

Other notable records: CAERNARFON: up to seven around mouth of Conwy est. in Jan.-March; 18 off Black Rock on 13 May; up to eight off Porthmadog from 26 June to 8 July.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* **MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN**

A rare trans-Atlantic visitor to Wales. On WRP list. The regular sightings off the north coast in recent winters make it difficult to maintain a precise total of the numbers recorded in Wales, but at least 58 have occurred previously.

GOWER: immature off Rhossili on dates between 22 Jan. and 13 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: male, off Telpyn Pt on 4 Jan. and presumed same at Marros on 19 Dec.; CAERNARFON: male off the Great Orme on 29 April, a much later date than birds were reported from neighbouring Denbighshire; DENBIGH: up to six males between Colwyn Bay and Pensarn from 18 Oct 2016 to 20 Feb. and again from 24 Nov.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* **MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD**

A scarce and local winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	38	25
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Decreases around the British coast and the Baltic has led to the international population estimate being revised down by 55%, and the species' listing as Endangered by IUCN/BirdLife International. 2017 saw the fewest records around Wales since 2006, though two midsummer records were unusual.

All records: GOWER: up to three in Rhossili Bay during Feb.-March; one in Oxwich Bay on 1-2 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: one at Cefn Sidan on 28 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Ynys Crossing on 13 June, unseasonal and a long way up the Dyfi est.; CAERNARFON: one off Llanfairfechan on 22 Jan.; two off Bangor Pier on 9 Feb.; two off the Great Orme on 23 and 29 April; one past Bardsey on 2 Dec.; ANGLESEY: one off The Skerries on 17 July was unseasonal; DENBIGH: up to two between Rhos-on-Sea and Llanddulas in Jan.-Feb.; one off Llanddulas on 23 Dec.; FLINT: two off Rhyl on 25 March may have been the same birds in Denbighshire earlier in the year.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* **MOR-HWYADEN DDU**

A locally abundant visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter months. The distribution is predominantly coastal, although it is regular in small numbers on inland waters on passage. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	434	464
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Wetland Bird Survey has issued a High Alert for Common Scoter wintering in Wales, owing to a 51% decline in the short-term. Aerial surveys of Carmarthen Bay SPA in winter 2016-17 found 18% fewer than in the last survey, seven years ago.

Other notable records: E.GLAMORGAN: 126 past Sker Pt on 27 June is highest count since Oct. 1989; GOWER: max. count 267 at Oxwich Bay on 1 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 3000 off Morfa Bychan on 4 Jan.; aerial survey of Carmarthen Bay in Feb. estimated 36,314 birds (*cf.* 43,000 in 2009); PEMBROKE: 5000+ off Amroth on 7 Jan.; 900+ at Nolton Haven on 27 Feb.; 6099 off Strumble Head during July-Oct. is a new annual record; CEREDIGION: 369 off Mwnt in Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1000 off Aberdyfi on 7 April; 540 off Morfa Harlech on 26 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 250 in Tremadog Bay in Jan.; 5000 off the Great Orme in April were part of the Denbighshire coast flock; 2661 bird-days recorded from Bardsey (the highest total ever), the max. day count of 158 in Oct.; ANGLESEY: 954 passed Point Lynas on 4 Aug. and 241 here on 15 Sept.; 370 passed Cemlyn on 26 Aug.; FLINT: 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5 Oct. was an unusually high count in the upper Dee est., 19km from the rivermouth.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Rhossili Bay	1000	4200		1500	129					578		2000
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan	2000		200	35	37		250		500	250	100	
CAERNARFON												
Rhos Point	200	10	1						500	200	400	150
DENBIGH/FLINT												
Rhos Point-Point of Ayr	400	1080	20,000	250	101		6000	400		3000		1500

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* **HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR**

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	137	263
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Winter 2016-17 saw the highest counts in Wales for many years, peaking with 43 in Feb., with small groups in Tremadog Bay and Foryd, Caernarfonshire, and Rhossili Bay and Burry Holm, Gower. The long-term outlook is not good, however, with a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to the species' global status as Vulnerable.

Summary of records for each count:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1	1									
GOWER	7	17	14	2								1
CARMARTHEN	7	7	8	6								
PEMBROKE	1	2										
CAERNARFON	11	8	2	6								
ANGLESEY*	5	5	2	2	1		1					1
DENBIGH	1	2	1								4	
FLINT	2	1								1	1	

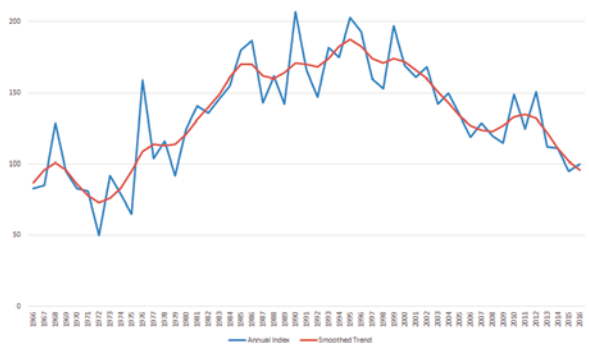
*one around Puffin Island on 19 May and 1 July.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* **HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR**

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	506	447
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Wetland Bird Survey: Goldeneye in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Non-breeding: the downward trend of the Wetland Bird Survey index, that started in the late 1990s, continues with a 33% decline in Wales in the medium term; the index is at its lowest since 1975/76.

Sites holding 10+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT									
R.Usk	10	14	14						7
E.GLAMORGAN									
Ogmore estuary	30	16	13				6	3	20
Rhaslas Pond	4	12	11					3	4
CARMARTHEN									
Penclacwydd	2	45	5	15				1	2
Talley	8	10	6					3	5
BRECON									
Llangorse Lake	51	40	45	1			3	43	44
Talybont Res.	17	5	13	9					
Dolymynach Res.	13		9						9
CAERNARFON									
Foryd	8	12	11	6				1	6
Traeth Lafan	97	33	22	10			7	9	26

Counts of 10+ elsewhere: BRECON: 13 at Pentwyn Res. on 27 Jan.; RADNOR: 16 on Dol-y-Mynach Res. on 16 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 30 on the Inland Sea on 2 Jan. and 20 here on 17 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Traeth Crugan on 25 Dec.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* **HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG**

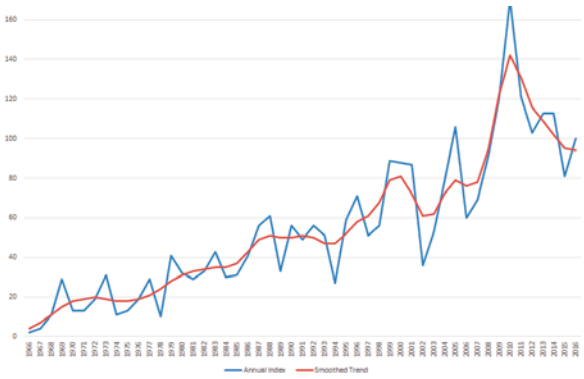
Breeding resident on most Welsh rivers, the population is believed to be slowly expanding but data is lacking. In winter, numbers are augmented by birds dispersing from farther north. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1294	1213
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	5%

Coverage of breeding pairs is far from complete, making it difficult to assess the impact of licences issued by Natural Resources Wales to shoot Goosanders on some rivers.

Breeding: GWENT: female with a crèche of 34 young on R.Usk; two broods at Gobion; single broods at Llanellen, Llancillo and Usk town; GOWER: broods on the R.Loughor (one), R.Tawe (two) and R.Neath (two); CEREDIGION: bred on the R.Rheidol and R.Ystwyth; BRECON: two broods on the R.Usk at Brecon; one brood on the R.Wye at Builth Wells and two at Glasbury; MEIRIONNYDD: broods at seven sites and probably at a further one; CAERNARFON: broods at four sites; ANGLESEY: bred at Traeth Dulas for second consecutive year; DENBIGH: bred at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: several broods on the Clwyd est.

Wetland Bird Survey: Goosander in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Non-breeding: there seems to be no immediate return to the peak numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey at the start of this decade. Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders.

Goosander (Jeff Slocombe)

Sites holding 20+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhaslas Pond	20	8	22						11	9	8	15
Wilderness Pond	12	6									20	1
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	40	20	10						2		7	43
Talybont Res.	6		2									20
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	4	6	3	1	18	77	81	29	35	45	4	2
Foryd	1	3	1	1	1	9	3	2	21	6	3	

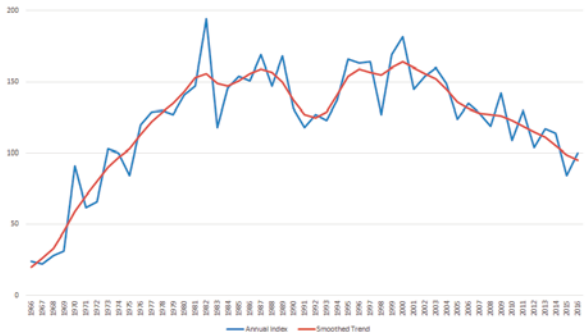
Counts of 20+ elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 39 at Bosherton on 26 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 26 at Llyn Eiddwen on 19 March; 22 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 11 July; MEIRIONNYDD: 25 at Ynys on 23 Sept.; DENBIGH: 28 at Gresford Flash on 9 Nov.; FLINT: 28 on the Clwyd est. on 13 Aug.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* **HWYADEN FRONGOCH**

Locally common winter visitor, particularly to the north Wales coast. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	647	705
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Red-breasted Merganser in Wales, 1966 - 2016



Breeding (under-recorded): MEIRIONNYDD: suspected at Pont Croesor; ANGLESEY: bred at Traeth Dulas and Cemlyn, but in reduced numbers at the latter site.

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen more rapidly than that for the whole of Britain, and now lies at its lowest since 1973/74.

Monthly max. (20+) at least once during the year.

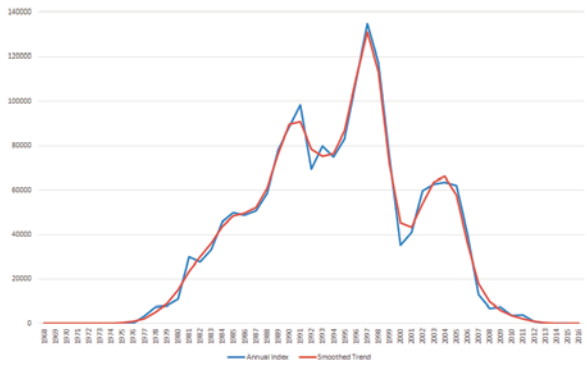
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Gwendraeth estuary	50	9	10								12	12
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	4		4		6					27	2	16
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	20	27	23	38	2	78	49	49	66	14	12	5
Foryd	5	2	7	24	2	1				1	2	4
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	27	28	11	4	1	1	1	5	6	14	23	21

Counts of 20+ elsewhere: GOWER: 25 at Wernffrwd on 1-2 April; ANGLESEY: max. on the Inland Sea were 25 on 2 Jan. and 32 on 20 Oct.; 40 off Beaumaris on 5 Oct.; DENBIGH: 20 off Colwyn Bay on 20 Jan.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* **HWYADEN GOCH**

Introduced, former breeding species and scarce winter visitor.

Wetland Bird Survey: Ruddy Duck in Wales, 1968 - 2016



There were no records from Wales in 2016, for the first year since 1973, nor in 2017; no Ruddy Ducks have bred in Wales since 2008. If no records are received in 2018, it will no longer feature in the *Welsh Bird Report* in null years.

UK Government's Animal and Plant Health Agency estimates the UK population is 20-22 birds, scattered around Britain (Iain Henderson, AHPA, pers. comm. – Nov. 2018), but there have been no records in Wales since 2015. There were an estimated 4400 birds in the UK in September 2005, the reduction following a successful eradication programme by Defra, part of an EU-wide project to remove the threat to White-headed Ducks in Europe.

BLACK GROUSE *Lyrurus tetrix* **GRUGIAR DDU**

Breeding resident on moorlands of north and mid-Wales, recent increase in numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	74	92
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Lek surveys (organised by RSPB Cymru, Natural Resources Wales, Denbighshire County Council and Cofnod) found 338 lekking males, down from 361 in 2016. The monitoring area again excluded Llanbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, owing to access restrictions.

Counts of lekking males: MONTGOMERY: one at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy (thought to be the most southerly breeding site in Britain), down on 2016; MEIRIONNYDD: 11 in the Migneint and Arenig Dduallt, level for the third year in succession; eight on Palé Moor/Sirior, up on 2016; DENBIGH: 12 in Clocaenog Forest, down on last year; 38 on Moel Famau, almost double the previous year's total and the highest since annual counts began in 1997 (there were none here in 1998-2000); 19 in North Berwyn, slightly down on 2016; 218 on Ruabon Mountain (down from 251 in 2016); 15 at Llantysilio and 16 on Llandegla Moor, both slightly up on last year.

Additional records reported to county recorders during breeding season: DENBIGH: recorded in 69 1-km squares, more than double the distribution in 2016, including a lek of 10 birds at Moel Garegog.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus* **GRUGIAR GOCH**

Breeding resident on heather uplands, declining in most areas. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	83	107
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A further small increase in BirdTrack records, but presumed greatly under-recorded.

Breeding: GWENT: 12 displaying birds on The Blorenge; brood on Mynydd Maen; probably bred on Gilwern Hill; BRECON: bred at Abergwesyn Common; probably bred at two locations in the Black Mountains; RADNOR: comprehensive count of record 132 birds on Beacon Hill in late July; MEIRIONNYDD: 128 territories counted during Black Grouse surveys (so incomplete), including 47 at Cwm Hesgyn; CAERNARFON: in the Carneddau, one above Llyn Anafon on 3 May, 12 on Moel Wnion on 20 Aug.; in the Glyderau, two on Yr Arddu on 22 May, four on Moelyci on 17 Aug.; in the Migneint, pair near Foel Boeth on 9 May, four near Llyn Conwy on 31 July.

Non-breeding: GWENT: records of 1-5 birds from nine sites; E.GLAMORGAN: five birds at Waun Wen in Aug.; CARMARTHEN: two records; CEREDIGION: one record; BRECON: 13 heard across Mynyddau Llangatwg and Llangynidr in Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 17 at Palé Moor on 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: singles at several sites in the Carneddau, four at Talcen Llwyd on 19 Oct.; DENBIGH: 20 at Ruabon Mountain on 12 March; FLINT: two at Moel Famau on 21 March.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* **PETRISEN GOESGOCH**

Populations, in majority of areas where this species is found, now probably maintained by release schemes.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	101	167
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Notable record from ANGLESEY, where records are increasing: at least 50 flew out to sea from Point Lynas in Oct. and landed on the water in panic, being swept out to sea and were not seen again.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix* **PETRISEN**

Almost extinct as a breeding species in much of Wales. Remaining populations are probably maintained by releases. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	7	8
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: GWENT: 1-2 at two sites during May-July; 1-5 at five sites during Sept.-Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Aberthaw on 8 May; four at Gileston on 27 Aug.; present at Barry Docks on 18 Nov.; CAERNARFON: five near Nefyn on 26 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two at Cable Bay on 1 and 12 May; DENBIGH: three near Brymbo on 9 Feb.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix* **SOFLIAR**

Scarce and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

An average year with 19 records, including one in Radnor that may have bred. All single calling males unless stated: GWENT: Cross Ash on 25 June; Bedwas on 30 June; Bettws Newydd on 1-3 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Metropolitan University on 29 April; Llanilid on 15 June; PEMBROKE: one flushed on Skokholm on 10 June; CEREDIGION: Tan-y-Groes on 25 June; RADNOR: 1-2 at four sites in June, of which one remained to Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: Porthmadog Cob on 28 June; CAERNARFON: Bryn Cegin Ind. Est. near Bangor on 6 June; Bwlch-y-ddeufan on 14 June; Porthmadog on 28 June; ANGLESEY: Alaw est. on 19-20 May; between Llanbedrog and Talwrn on 25 June; DENBIGH: Fenn's Moss on 20 July; FLINT: Gronant on 5 July.

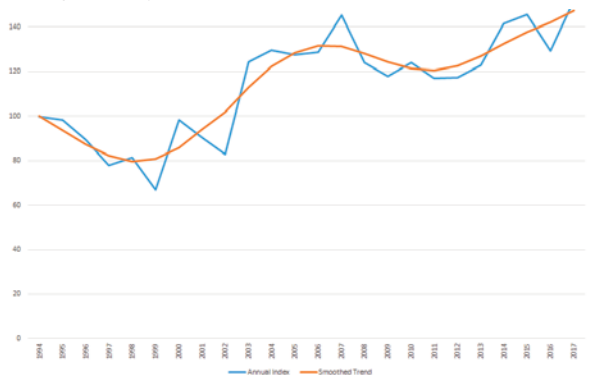
PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* **FFESANT**

A locally common breeding resident, widespread throughout Wales. Population in many areas is maintained by releases, but few records included in county reports.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1896	2275
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	12%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a 47% increase since 1994, the increase during this decade - alongside the increase in BirdTrack records - suggesting that estates are releasing more birds for shooting.

Breeding Bird Survey: Pheasant in Wales, 1994 - 2017



RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* **TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH**

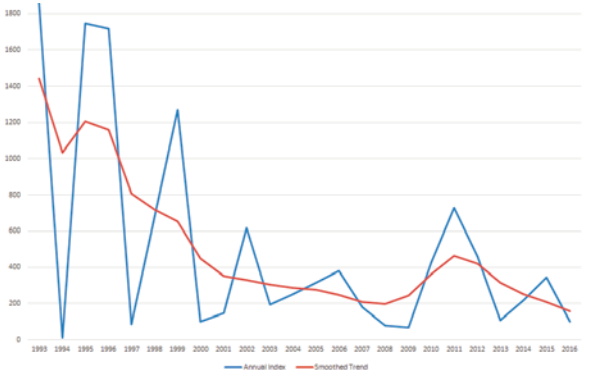
Winter visitor and passage migrant, regularly recorded off-shore, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2015
No of BirdTrack records	216	203
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales hit a new low in 2016/17, although there are big gaps in coverage along coastal areas.

Max. counts not included in the table below: E.GLAMORGAN: up to seven between Rest Bay and Sker Pt on 5-6 Jan.; at least seven off Nash Pt on 17 Jan. and nine here on 21 Nov., then an unprecedented 60 passed in two hours on 4 Dec.; one from Irongate Pt (Porthcawl) on 11 June was unseasonal; six off Sker Pt in Dec.; GOWER: max. seven in Rhossili Bay on 24 Jan. and four here on 16 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 11 at Cefn Sidan on 16 Jan. and 14 March; PEMBROKE: 66 passed Strumble Head during the year, max. count 23 on 16 Dec.; max. eight at Nolton Haven on 27 March; CEREDIGION: 12 at Llansantffraid/Aberaeron in Jan.; eight at Aberystwyth in Oct.; nine off Teifi est. on 6 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: very poor season, max. 11 off Penllyn, Tywyn, on 3 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 16 at Morfa Abererch and Penychain on 5 Feb.; 10 off Afonwen on 9 March; 16 off Morfa Nefyn on 17 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 25 north off Moelfre on 11 Feb.; 16 passed Cemlyn on 2 April; 51 passed South Stack between 2 April and 19 May (max. 15 on 12 April); one past Rhosneigr on 9 June was unseasonal; 151 passed Point Lynas between 13 Aug. and 9 Dec., max. 40 on 28 Nov.; eight off Cemlyn on 5 Oct.; 10 off Traeth Lligwy on 7 Nov.; 12 off Benllech on 4 Dec.; DENBIGH: 17 at Llanddulas on 5 Jan.; nine off Colwyn Bay on 15 Nov.; FLINT: 19 offshore at Rhyl on 8 April.

Wetland Bird Survey: Red-throated Diver in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Counts from the main sites, with 20 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas	5		10	10	27				1	12	27	19
New Quay	4	23										
Mwnt					11				23			
CAERNARFON												
*Caernarfon Bay	13	10	2	2							2	20
**Traeth Lafan	*c*.200	150+	13	73	1				2	4	23	1
Penmaenmawr			3							5	76	
Penrhyn Bay - Rhos Pt	17	2	22						3	7	6	17

* Fort Belan to Trefor pier;

** *c*.200 off Llanfairfechan on 29 Jan. was the third-highest ever at Traeth Lafan.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* **TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU**

Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded in small numbers annually. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	31	24
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records are singles unless otherwise stated: GOWER: Rhossili Bay on 3 Jan. and 16 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 4 Feb. and 22 Oct.; two off Teifi est. on 28 Jan.; Nolton Haven area between 27 Feb. and 27 March; CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 25 Jan.; Llanina on 14 March; CAERNARFON: two off Llanfairfechan on 30 Jan. and singles here on 11 Feb. and 6 April; Aberdaron on 2 April; Afonwen on 11 Nov.; Bardsey on 11 and 19 Sept., and on 11 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Holyhead Bay on 21 and 23 Jan.; summer-plumage bird passing Cemlyn on 11 June was unseasonal; Holyhead Breakwater on 3 Oct.; Point Lynas on 4 Nov.; DENBIGH: Llanddulas on 24 March.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* **TROCHYDD MAWR**

Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Recorded from inland waters

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	290	130
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Selected notable counts: GOWER: max. three at Whiteford Pt on 7 Jan.; five in Swansea Bay on 26 Oct.; PEMBROKE: three at the Gann est. on 10 Feb.; four at Nolton Haven on 5 April; 19 passed Strumble Head during the year, max. day counts five on 22 Oct., three on 5 and 13 Nov.; CAERNARFON: see table; ANGLESEY: one on the Inland Sea on 23 Oct., increasing to two on 13 Nov. and four by 29th.

Approx. monthly totals for each county:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN	3					1			1	2	5	
CARMARTHEN		1	3						1	1		
PEMBROKE excl. Strumble Head		3		4							6	
CEREDIGION	1	1	4	1	1					2	3	
MEIRIONNYDD												1
CAERNARFON												
*Caernarfon Bay	7	2	16	35								5
Traeth Lafan	1		1								2	
Rhos Point	1			3						1	4	2
Bardsey		1	2	3	1					4	1	2
ANGLESEY	5	5	5	2					1+	1+	5	4
DENBIGH	2	1								1	1	

* Fort Belan to Trefor pier

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* **PEDRYN DRYCIN**

Breeds regularly on several island sites off the west coast, mainly in very small colonies. Skokholm holds the only population over 1000 pairs. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS).

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	61	40
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: min. seven AOS on Ramsey; 163 AOS on Bishops and Clerks; 89 responses noted on Skokholm; CAERNARFON: survey on Bardsey found 50 adults responding to playback; using standard correction factor (x3.5) population estimated at 175 pairs.

Strong winds on 8/9 June, during 3-5 Aug. and on 19 Aug. brought greater numbers than usual to non-breeding coasts in south Wales. Notable records: GWENT: at least five off Goldcliff Pt and one off Peterstone Wentlooge on 9 June; two off Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 11 June; E.GLAMORGAN: three off Sully Island on 7 June; three at Porthcawl and four at Sully Island on 8 June; two at Lavernock Pt on 8-9 June and on 3 Aug., then five here on 4 Aug.; GOWER: nine off Mumbles Head on 8 June, and 19 on 9th; 41 off Port Eynon on 4 Aug. and seven here on 19th; PEMBROKE: 36 birds passed Strumble Head during the year, max. day count eight on 5 and 19 Aug.; CEREDIGION: one off New Quay on 16 May; five caught by Teifi Ringing Group at Mwnt on 22 June and same number on 15 July; four passed New Quay on 3 Aug.; two passed Mwnt on 5 Aug.; one at New Quay on 15 Aug.; six passed New Quay on 11 Sept. and two here on 13th; CAERNARFON: birds caught for ringing (tape-lure) on Bardsey included four on 30 May, 16 on 7 July and 13 on 6 Aug.; one off Rhos Point on 29 June; two off Bardsey on 22 Oct.; ANGLESEY: max. counts, three off Point Lynas, five at Cemlyn and six off Holyhead Breakwater on 9 Sept.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* **PEDRYN-DRYCIN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG**

Scarce autumn visitor, commonest off the north Wales coast. Wales Amber listed.

The records below show peaks during 9-15 Sept. and 17 Oct. as a result of strong northwesterly winds. All records: GWENT: one stranded at Llandegfedd Res. on 13 Sept.; all other records from Goldcliff: singles on 13 Sept., 17 Oct. and (a probable) on 21 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: one off Southerndown on 11 Sept.; ten off Porthcawl on 17 Oct.; GOWER: one off Port Eynon Pt on 11 Sept.; one at Dalton's Pt on 21 Oct.; PEMBROKE: best for many years at Strumble Head where 103 recorded between 9 Sept. and 5 Nov., max. day counts were 50 on 9 Sept. and 32 on 14th; 22 passing Ramsey on 15 Sept. was an island record; one was taken by a Peregrine off Skomer on 21 Oct., another on 22nd; CEREDIGION: one at Mwnt on 10 Sept. and three on 11th; four at New Quay on 11 Sept.; six at the mouth of the Teifi and two at Llanrhystud on 13 Sept.; two at Mwnt and five at New Quay on 14 Sept.; one at Teifi est. on 5 Oct.; CAERNARFON: most records came from Rhos Point in Sept.: two on 9th, 12 on 11th, one on 12th, six on 14th and 20 on 15th; nearby, six passed the Little Orme on 9 Sept.; two off Criccieth on 22 Oct.; Bardsey had its fourth best year following two years with no records: in Sept., one on 9th, 38 on 11th, nine each on 13th and 14th, singles on 17th, 20th, 21st and 24th and two on 29th; six on 22 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one off Cemlyn and four passed Bull Bay on 9 Sept.; then regularly in Sept. at Cemlyn during NW winds, including seven on 11th, two on 13th-14th, 13 on 15th and two on 16th; at Point Lynas, one on 11 Sept., two on 14th, 32 on 15th, five on 16th and two on 26th, two here on 6 and 29 Oct.; one passed Holyhead Breakwater on 14 Sept.; DENBIGH: two off Colwyn Bay on 15 Sept.; FLINT: one off Rhyl on 10 Sept. and three further records from here, including two on 11th; singles at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5 and 22 Oct. (19km from the estuary mouth).

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* **ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG**

A numerous species, breeding in most coastal counties. Frequent offshore in most months. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	676	684
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

The trend around much of Wales, confirmed by long-term monitoring at sites such as the Castlemartin peninsula, is one of gradual decline over the last 20 years, although the small population

County/Site	Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS)		County/Site	Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS)		County/Site	Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS)
E.GLAMORGAN			PEMBROKE			CAERNARFON	
Cwm Nash	9		*Tenby-Amroth	14		Great Orme	9
Nash Point	5		Caldey	90		Little Orme	2
Llantwit Major	8		St. Margaret's Island	13		Uwchmynydd	No counts
Southerndown Cliffs	15		**Barafundle-Giltar	92		near Porth Meudwy	Prob. bred
			Castlemartin	75		Bardsey	20
GOWER			Skokholm	213			
Rhossili/ Mewslade	No counts		Skomer	No counts		ANGLESEY	
Spaniards Rocks area	Prob. Bred		Ramsey	312		Puffin Island	41
			*Little Haven-Newgale	90		S. and N. Stack	18
CARMARTHEN			*St. Brides Bay coast	36		Church Bay (in July)	9 on cliffs
Pendine	4		*Ynys Fach near Trefin	20			
Telpyn Point	5					DENBIGH	
						Llanddulas E quarry	18
						Llanddulas W quarry	7

*last counted in 1999; **last counted in 2006

on Bardsey and larger populations on the Pembrokeshire islands seem to be bucking that trend.

Breeding: PEMBROKE: five sites in the table below indicated decreases: Tenby-Amroth, St. Margaret's Island, Castlemartin peninsula, St. Brides Bay coast and Ynys Fach near Trefin; two sites (Caldey and Barafundle-Giltar) showed little significant change; Skokholm had another record year; increases also on Ramsey and at Little Haven-Newgale; there was no island census on Skomer but average breeding success at seven study plots was 0.3/AOS (*cf.* 0.43 at six study plots in 2016); CEREDIGION: small numbers bred but no counts reported; MEIRIONNYDD: no figures from Friog cliff, the only nesting site in the county; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey the number of AOS (20) was 33% higher than last year (and 11% above the ten-year average); DENBIGH: counts at two sites where there appeared to be a 40% reduction since 2002.

Other large counts or interesting records: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 off Irongate Pt on 11 June; GOWER: 12 at Rhossili on 22 Jan.; up to 12 between Rhossili and Mewslade on 21 May; CEREDIGION: notable movements in Aug. included 30 past New Quay on 3rd, 53 past Mwnt on 4th and 150 past Teifi est. on 18th; CAERNARFON: 50 at the Little Orme on 20 Jan., 22 on 5 Feb. and 20 on 17th; 25 at Rhos Point on 23 Feb.; 30 at Great Orme on 18 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 15 passed Point Lynas on 24 Feb.; 82 west at Cemlyn on 12 June; 10 at Benllech on 4 Dec.; a 'blue' or dark-phase bird passed Point Lynas on 13 Aug.; DENBIGH: 24 at Llanddulas on 1 June and nine here on 23 Dec.; FLINT: four at Rhyl on 11 Sept.

Monthly max counts at Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	3	5	16	23	48	23	17	83	61	4	14	0

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris borealis* **ADERYN-DRYCIN CORY**

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn. On WRP list. 108 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one west through Bardsey Sound on 24 Aug. was the first county record since 1991.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Ardenna grisea* **ADERYN-DRYCIN DU**

A scarce passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally during late August to early October. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	46	7
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

GOWER: one in Rhossili Bay on 8 Aug.; PEMBROKE: only 18 birds off Strumble Head during the year, max. day count five on 11 Sept.; one off Skokholm on 27 July and 28 Aug.; one off Skomer on 27 Aug.; CAERNARFON: one off Bardsey on 28 July, two on 19 Aug., two on 6 Sept. and singles on 11 Sept. and 29 Oct.

GREAT SHEARWATER *Ardenna gravis* **ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR**

Scarce autumn passage migrant, on WRP list. 267 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one off Skokholm on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: one in Bardsey Sound on 26 Aug.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* **ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW**

Breeding on Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey. Large feeding movements and autumn passage are regular off western coasts and even well up into the Bristol Channel. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	299	352
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: on Skomer, 85 study nest-boxes at North Haven fledged 49 young, an average breeding success of 0.58/nest (*cf.* 0.63 in 2016); 295 call-responses on Skokholm in 8000m^2 was slightly higher than for the last four years; CAERNARFON: sample of 127 burrows found productivity was 0.65/nest with 83 young successfully fledging, 5.8% below the 2008-2016 mean.

Other large counts or interesting records: GWENT: 475 at Peterstone Wentlooge, all flying downstream, in mid-June; E.GLAMORGAN: 3000 passed Lavernock Pt on 9 and 11 June; 6000 passed Porthcawl in two hours on 11 June; GOWER: 2000 south of Rhossili Causeway on 28 April; 2500 off Tutt Head on 27 July; CARMARTHEN: largest counts all at Cefn Sidan in May: *c.*400 on 8th, 505 on 11th and 540 on 25th; CEREDIGION: poor numbers off Borth/Ynyslas, max. count 4000 in July; 1000 off Llanon on 17 July; 3000 off Aberystwyth in late July and early Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1000 off Tywyn on 3 May (high count for the county); 882 off Tonfanau on 29 July and 331 here on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 300 off Criccieth on 30 April and 120 here on 31 July; ANGLESEY: 12,630 passed RSPB South Stack in four hours on 6 June; 575 passed Trearddur Bay in one hour on 7 June; 75 rafted off Llanddwyn Island on 6 July; 200 passed Cemlyn on 11 Sept.; FLINT: ten at Point of Ayr on 11 June.

Monthly max counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	0	0	25	308	2039	6381	8309	13,490	2063	326*	0	0

* count of 326 on 2 Oct. was the fourth highest Oct. count ever.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* **ADERYN-DRYCIN MOR Y CANOLDIR**

A fairly common passage migrant to western coastal areas, principally in the period late August to early October. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	61	5
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Low numbers recorded from most watchpoints, although the Meirionnydd record was the first in the county since 2010. All records: GOWER: singles at Port Eynon Pt on 29 July, 1 Aug. and Dalton's Pt on 11 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head, monthly totals: Aug. (19), Sept. (10) and Oct. (one); one off Skokholm on 27 July, two on 2 Aug., one on 3rd and two on 19th; CEREDIGION: two off Mwnt on 4 Aug.; one off Ynyslas on 13 Aug.; one off New Quay on 6 Sept.; two off Mwnt on 14 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: one off Aberdysynni on 29 July; CAERNARFON: singles passed Bardsey on 14 April (second spring record for the island), 23 June, 16 and 24 Aug., 2 and 10 Sept.; one passed Rhos Point on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two passed Point Lynas on 22 Aug., one on 29 Aug. and two on 9 Sept.; singles passed Bull Bay and Cemlyn on 9 Sept.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **GWYACH FACH**

Rather uncommon breeding resident on well vegetated lakes, marshes and water courses; scarcer in the land-locked counties. Winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

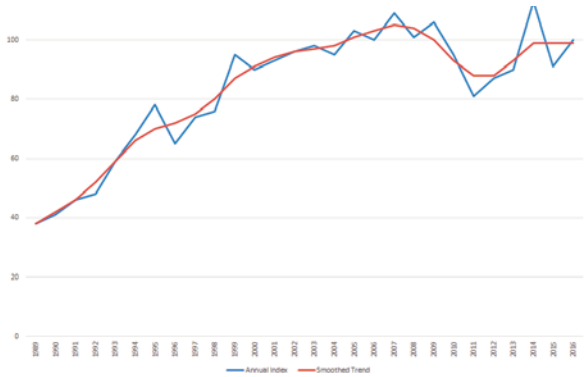
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2529	2387
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	12%

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has stabilised in the last decade following a long-term increase.

Other counts of 10+ birds: GWENT: 10 at Nedern on 18 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Talygarn Lake on 19 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 25 at Marloes Mere on 19 Dec.;

CAERNARFON: 10 at Porthmadog on 23 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 13 on the Inland Sea on 2 Jan.; FLINT: 52 at Shotwick Boating Lake on 15 Jan.

Wetland Bird Survey: Little Grebe in Wales, 1989 - 2016



Max. monthly counts from sites holding 10 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Ynysyfro Res.	12								16	17		
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	59	61	21	1	4	4	3	5	9	5	34	39
Llanishen/Lisvane	28	24	27	22	5	7	8	16	26	20	19	23
Parc Taf Bargoed	22	23	3	2	2	2	1	3	9	13	20	16
Abercwmboi Lakes		6								2		12
Ogmore estuary	12	12	2							6	8	10
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.								18	13		9	10
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	2	6	9	8	7	8	10	8	12	10	4	3
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	44	10	4						6	11	19	21
BRECON												
Talybont Res.	25	15	9				4	21	16	10	20	13
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	2	14							14	2	8	2
Tal y llyn	18	12							3	9	22	20
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	11	7	8	3	5	3	5	6	20	11	10	12

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* GWYACH YDDFGOCH

Rare winter visitor, on WRP list. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	33	11
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

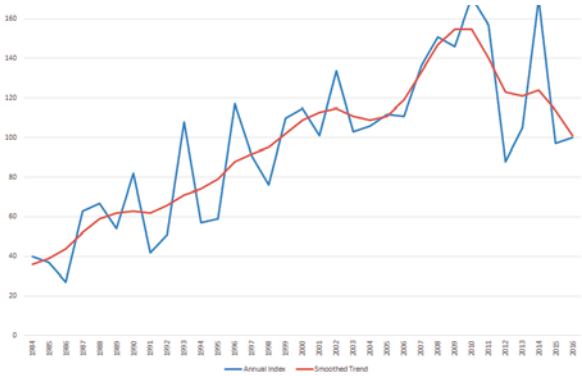
All records involved single birds: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 7 April; ANGLESEY: Penmon on 15 Jan. and off Aberlleiniog on 21st; Soldier's Pt on 26 Sept., then in Beddmanarch Bay on 4-15 Oct.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Resident breeding species, breeding on shallow, vegetated lakes. Shows a more coastal distribution in winter and recorded on passage from several counties. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2271	1541
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	7%

Wetland Bird Survey: Great Crested Grebe in Wales, 1984 - 2016



Non-breeding: the current decade has seen a marked reversal in the fortunes of Great-crested Grebe with the index at its lowest for 20 years.

Count of 20+ birds not included in the table below: DENBIGH: 38 at Llanddulas on 29 Jan.

Max. monthly counts from sites holding 20 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	26	36	37	34	47	41	41	58	47	12	26	19
Kenfig Pool	12	18	15	5	3	3	6	1	2	5	20	20
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.				20		33	44		50	47		
GOWER												
Blackpill	248	1	34	1		1	4	4	4	12	195	245
Baglan Bay	192	19								41	60	36
Eglwys Nunydd Res.				23	5	38	15	31	22	9	7	23
CARMARTHEN												
Pwll/Burry Port		22	9	16				9	8	19	8	
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	100	30	45	78	11	4	108	178	128	102	72	42
Penmaenmawr	4		78							5	8	12
ANGLESEY												
Benllech											48	72
Inland Sea			19								33	

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG

Scarce and local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	152	96
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Main sites that regularly hold Slavonian Grebes:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
North Gower	1+	1+	5	4						2	1	5+
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	8	3	2							1	3	2

Other records: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Kenfig Pool on 7 Nov. was joined by a second on 8th, with both present until 28 Dec., thereafter one until the year end; CARMARTHEN: one at Pwll on 19 March; PEMBROKE: two at Angle Bay on 15 March; one at the Gann est. from 20 Nov. to 3 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: one on Glaslyn est. on 15 Jan.; CAERNARFON: singles off Penrhyn Bay on 7 Jan./Rhos Point on 14 Jan., Foryd on 8 Feb., and Llandudno on 11 Feb. and 11 March; ANGLESEY: up to three in Beddmanarch Bay from Jan. to 15 March; one off Moelfre on 13 Jan.; two off Aberlleiniog on 18 Jan.; one off Traeth Lligwy on 8 Feb.; one on Llyn Llywenan on 3-4 April; up to two in Beddmanarch Bay from 17 Nov. to the year end; one on Inland Sea on 12-18 Dec.; DENBIGH: one off Llanddulas on 20 Feb.

Slavonian Grebe (Bob Garrett)

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* **GWYACH YDDFDDU**

Rare winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Formerly bred on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	24	55
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 3 April; E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay on 20 March; two at Kenfig Pool on 30 Oct.; GOWER: Burry Pill-Whiteford Saltmarsh on 7 Jan.; Dalton's Pt on 11 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: Kidwelly Quay on 3 Jan.; Ffos Las from 24 Sept. to 7 Oct.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 6 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Ynys on 7 Nov., then four on 8th; CAERNARFON: off Wig on 17 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Inland Sea from 2016 until 1 May.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* **LLWYBIG**

Uncommon visitor to Wales, recorded mainly from estuaries and coastal lagoons and occasionally over-wintering and summering. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	91	181
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The table below shows that Spoonbills are over-summering at a couple of wetlands in South Wales, perhaps a precursor to nesting, which now occurs in two English counties.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands			1	1	1	1	2	2				
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd			2	1	4	3	3	3	3	1	1	1

Elsewhere: E. GLAMORGAN: one over Kenfig Pool on 13 May; GOWER: one on north Gower coast from 2 April to 12 May; three at Staffal Haegr on 31 Aug.; PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 14-15 June; one on Skokholm on 26 June; CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE: five on the Teifi est on 24 Sept., two of which were colour-ringed; MEIRIONNYDD: one on Glaslyn Marshes on 20 Feb.; ANGLESEY: one on the Inland Sea on 18-23 May; two on the Alaw est. on 29-30 May, when later seen on The Skerries; FLINT: one at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 8 May.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* **ADERYN Y BWN**

Scarce but regular winter visitor, and breeding again on Anglesey since 2016. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	101	78
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

A real success story, with at least four booming males in Wales in 2017. Breeding occurred again in Anglesey, and surely can't be far away in South Wales, especially with an expanding population in Somerset.

Single booming males during breeding season: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) though breeding not suspected; E.GLAMORGAN: first booming for a number of years: Parc Tredelerch from 29 March to 15 April; Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 10-19 April; CEREDIGION: Aberleri on 30 May; BRECON: Llangorse Lake in Feb.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Maelog on 12 March; successfully bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands, fledging three young from two nests; bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga, fledging at least one young.

Other single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: present at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) in both winter periods (not June-Aug.); Woodstock Pond near Bettws from 30 Jan. to 22 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool from 1 Jan. to 5 Feb.; Cosmeston Lakes CP from 1 Jan. to 9 March; Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve from 9 Jan. to 22 March; Cadoxon on 20 Feb.; Kenfig NNR saltmarsh/reedbed on 2 July; Cosmeston Lakes CP on 30 Oct.; Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve from 29 Nov. to 3 Dec.; Kenfig Pool on 10 and 28 Dec.; GOWER: Oxwich Marsh NNR on 30 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 14 Jan.; PEMBROKE: up to two on Teifi Marshes from 3 Jan. to 13 April; Goodwick on 9 Feb.; Stackpole Court from 22 Feb. to 2 March; Skokholm on 6 May (first island record); BRECON: Pennorth on 5 Feb.; Llangorse Lake on 2 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Coed y Dinas on 21-29 Jan.; Dolydd Hafren on 8 Feb.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Maelog on 18 Nov. and 4 Dec.; Malltraeth Cob on 18 Dec.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* **CREYR Y NOS**

Rare visitor from southern Europe; on WRP list. 39 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 18-19 June.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis* **CREYR Y GWARTHEG**

Scarce visitor, on WRP list until 31 December 2018. 63 previous records.

26 records in one year is almost as many (32) as had ever been recorded in Wales prior to 2010, with small flocks in Anglesey and Ceredigion, and breeding close to the border.

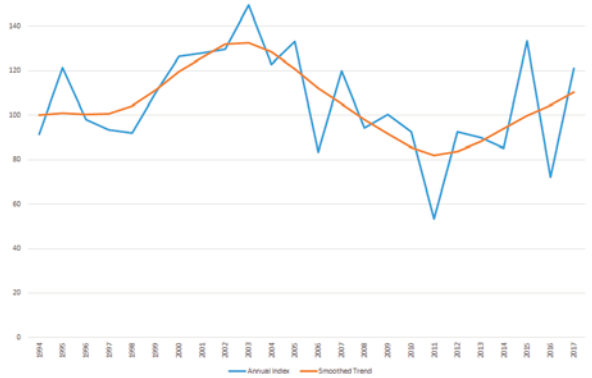
Singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve from 18 March to 4 April when joined by a second, presumably that had been at Magor Marsh from 28 March to 3 April; Llandegfedd Res. on 16 July; Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 20 July; E.GLAMORGAN: St. Athan on 12-26 March; Llantwit Major on 4 July; Ogmore on 13 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 28 June and 7 August; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from 10 Dec. 2016 until 1 May; Bosherston from 12 March to 8 June; Skokholm on 17 July; St. David's on 8-10 Nov.; CEREDIGION: six at Ynyslas from 6 May to 23 June (also seen in MONTGOMERY and MEIRIONNYDD); Teifi est. on 23 Nov., presumed same at Ynyslas from 24 Nov. into 2018; ANGLESEY: five increasing to seven, at Pont Marquis from 25 Dec. 2016 to 24 April, one at the same site on 15 Nov., increasing to three by 26th, all of which remained until the end of the year; FLINT: individuals from a breeding pair on the English part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands were seen in Wales, including one at Connah's Quay NR on 13 Aug.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* **CREYR GLAS**

Resident breeding species occurring widely around estuaries, lakes and inland watercourses; although the population is increasing in some counties, overall in Wales, it appears to be declining. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	4447	4306
% of BirdTrack lists	22%	22%

Breeding Bird Survey: Grey Heron in Wales, 1994 - 2017



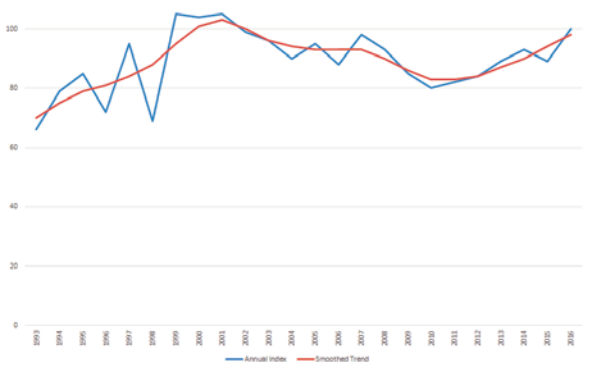
Caveat to BBS graph: counts may contain a high proportion of birds away from breeding sites.

The Breeding Bird Survey and year-round Wetland Bird Survey indices tell a similar story of slow recovery from a population dip at the start of the current decade. 2018 sees a big effort to revisit old heronries for the 90th anniversary of the BTO Heronries Census. Bird reports suggest around 240 nests in 40 heronries in 2017.

GWENT: 44 AON at seven sites (largest 11 at Whitson Court) but felling of woodland at Tredegar House resulted in destruction of heronry; E.GLAMORGAN: 36 AON at four sites (largest 14 at Coryton Wood and Hensol); GOWER: 23 AON at seven sites (max. six at Bryncoch and Dyffryn Rhondda); PEMBROKE: 30 AON at five sites (max. 13 at Westfield Pill); BRECON: 51 AON in eight colonies (largest 34 at Ashford); CAERNARFON: 51 AON at eight sites (max. 15 at Glynllifon); DENBIGH: bred at one site.

Records of 10+ away from breeding colonies not included in the table on page 51: ANGLESEY: 10 on the Inland Sea on 30 Sept.; FLINT: 12 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 31 Aug. and 6 Dec.

Wetland Bird Survey: Grey Heron in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Monthly counts from selected sites holding 10+ birds at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	6	2	6	11	9	8	12	3	6	2	1	1
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	8	2	34						12	14	11	7
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	18	6	14	10	9	8	9	21	16	29	27	8
ANGLESEY												
Church Island				8				10		21	23	
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary	28	9	2	18	12	9	13	11	14	18	19	29

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* **CRËYR PORFFOR**

Rare visitor from southern Europe, on WRP list. 67 previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Kenfig NNR on 13-21 May; PEMBROKE: one at Bosherston on 6 May.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba* **CREYR MAWR GWYN**

Increasingly regular visitor, occurring at any time of the year.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	392	546
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

It is become increasingly difficult to calculate the number of individual Great White Egrets in Wales, especially since birds will readily commute between wetlands some distance apart. Last year we estimated 50, this year it's a minimum of 95 birds, though of course it's difficult to iron out birds that move from one part of Wales to another. County records are being beaten almost annually, but the eight together in Gower is a new Welsh record.

Largest groups: GOWER: eight at Staffal Haegr on 1 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: four at Kidwelly Marsh on 27 Sept.; CEREDIGION: four at RSPB Ynys-hir on 18 Nov.; FLINT: six at White Sands on 10 and 21 Sept, and at Connah's Quay NR on 13 Nov.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT					1				1	2		
E. GLAMORGAN						1	2			1	1	
GOWER	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	8	7
CARMARTHEN	3	1	2	1	1			1	4	2	6	3
PEMBROKE	1				1					2	1	
CEREDIGION				1	2				1	2	2	
CERE/MONT/MEIR Dyfi estuary			1		1					2	4	1
BRECON	4	3	3	3				1	3	2	3	4
RADNOR				3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
MONTGOMERY	1		2	1						3	1	2
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	2
CAERNARFON							1			5	1	
ANGLESEY		1		3	1		1		1+	5	3	1
DENBIGH RSPB Conwy				2					1	1	1	1
FLINT	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	1+	2+	1+	6	1+	6	1+

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* **CREYR BACH**

Scarce but increasing breeder (138 nests at 17 sites in 2016) and a fairly common autumn migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3255	3492
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	17%

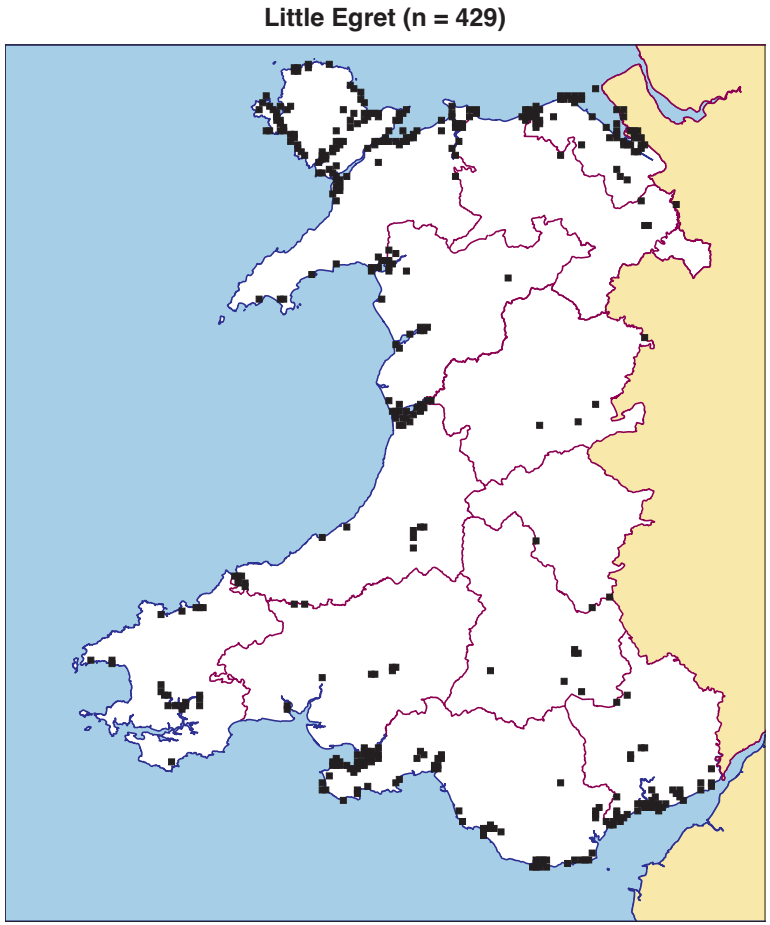
14-16 colonies, most within existing heronries, held a minimum 111 nests, with breeding in Flintshire and Radnorshire for the first time.

Breeding: GWENT: two AON at Whitson Court; six AON at Magor Marsh; two AON at Llanhennock; E. GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at one site; GOWER: 19 AON fledged 21 young at one site; CARMARTHEN: at least 10 AON at one site; RADNOR: one pair attempted to breed (unsuccessful); MEIRIONNYDD: four AON at Aberdyfi, four AON in Minffordd area; CAERNARFON: 30 AON at Glynllifon; 21 AON at Abercegin; eight AON at Coed Benarth; ANGLESEY: four pairs in a heronry at Inland Sea; DENBIGH: probably bred in Conwy Valley; FLINT: several pairs nested in a rookery at Talacre.

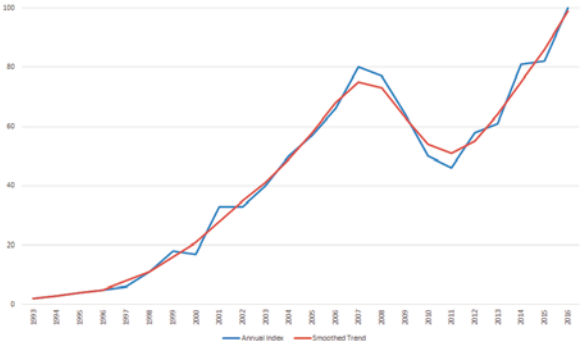
A summary of counts at the main sites (30+ at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT roost counts												
Magor Marsh	28	2	1	37	31	12	10	6	15	43	12	11
GOWER												
Llanrhidian	52	46	54	58	16	12	42	19	15	38	117	84
Upper Loughor estuary	2	1	1	8	1		17	70	58	71	18	3
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	6	10	21	17	5	19	48	54	45	29	11	10
Gwendraeth estuary	16	4	12		1		40	43	34	39	10	
Tywi estuary	5		25						51	36	8	16
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	54	40	46						66	68	44	28
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	8	8	12	10	2	7	28	31	25	28	15	15
Traeth Lafan	5	5	10	9	14	28	130	95	99	81	16	12
ANGLESEY												
Inland Sea	20	19	36	11	11	11	27	40	47	59	39	18
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	8	2	7	24	13	25	138	124	10	35	8	18

All BirdTrack records in 2017:



Wetland Bird Survey: Little Egret in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Non-breeding: another new high for the Wetland Bird Survey index, the setback at the start of the decade following two hard winters has slowed but not staunched the establishment of the species in Wales.

Other counts of 30+ birds: CEREDIGION: 33 on the Dyfi est. on 24 Aug. and 57 on 21 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: six at Dolydd Hafren on 25 Nov.; MEIRONNYDD: 25 roosted at Dolrhyd, Dolgellau, on 28 July; 80 at Aber Tafol, Dyfi est., on 30 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 21 at Red Wharf Bay on 1 Aug.; FLINT: 152 at Bagillt Bank on 10 Sept.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* **HUGAN**

Common offshore throughout the year, most plentiful during the extended breeding season, March-October. One major breeding colony on Grassholm, Pembrokeshire, where numbers are 20% higher than in 1986, though have declined by 8% since 2009. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	742	952
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	5%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: bred on Grassholm but no census records this year.

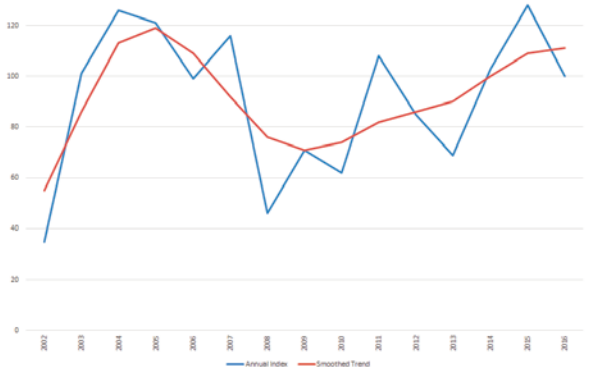
Notable counts: CARMARTHEN: 200 off Cefn Sidan on 22 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 400 off Llanrhystud on 8 May; 400 off Aberystwyth on 18 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 150 off Llanfairfechan and 1162 off Bardsey on 11 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 249 passed Point Lynas on 29 Oct.; 456 passed Cemlyn on 3 Oct.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* **MULFRAN WERDD**

A regular breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower northwards to Anglesey. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON).

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	671	705
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Wetland Bird Survey: Shag in Wales, 2002 - 2016



Breeding pairs: GOWER: pair at a suitable nest site on Worm's Head; PEMBROKE: one at Caldey; three at St. Margaret's; seven at Castlemartin; three at Thorn Island; 16 at Stack Rocks; 12 at Middleholm; five on Skomer; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey (45), Ynysoedd Gwylan (38), Ynys Gwylan Bach (six), near Carreg (one); ANGLESEY: bred at Point Lynas.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has made a slow recovery from a drop observed a decade ago, but the survey is probably not representative of the whole population.

Max. monthly counts at sites where monitored in CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	10	11	33	45	42	68	152	77	53	63	11	6
Morfa Conwy	23	28	3	1			6	3	3	9		17

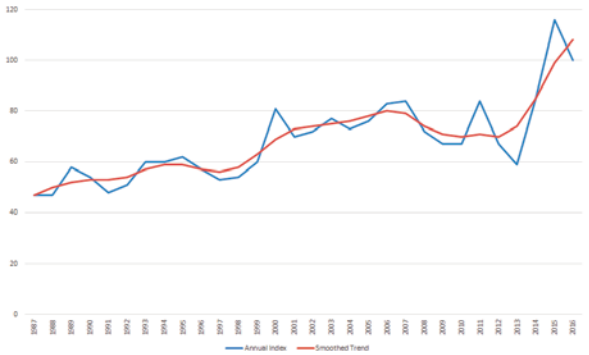
Max. counts elsewhere: CEREDIGION: 25 off Llanrhystud and 85 off Aberystwyth on 22 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 45 at Morfa Abererch and Penychain on 5 Feb.; 30 off Little Orme on 18 July; 29 off Criccieth on 22 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 28 at Ynys Llanddwyn on 18 April.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* **MULFRAN**

Breeding resident in coastal counties from Gwent to Anglesey. Frequently seen offshore in other counties. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). A regular visitor to inland freshwaters. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	5657	5004
% of BirdTrack lists	29%	26%

Wetland Bird Survey: Cormorant in Wales, 1987 - 2016



Breeding pairs (AON): GWENT: 58 at Denny Island; PEMBROKE: 162 at St. Margaret's; 26 at Thorn island; seven at Middleholm.

The smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached an all-time high in 2016/17, in part thanks to better coverage along the Denbighshire and Flintshire coasts, which averaged peak counts of over 1100 birds in the last five years.

Maximum counts from the main estuarine and inland sites of 50+ at least once:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	69	66	27	22	14	25	42	44	65	4	70	72
Roath Park	5	7	15	5		1	4	9	10	14	37	76
GWENT												
Llandegfedd Res.	28	15	9	19	17	4	55	100	130	98	47	31
GOWER												
Whiteford	41	55		34	10	24	27	38	42	68	65	30
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	70	18	42	11	15	32	28	45	51	82	46	16
Cefn Sidan	127	30	60						50	25	37	27
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas/Leri estuary	17			27			52	96	58			
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	103	33	15						46	55	40	44
MEIRIONNYDD												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	3	0	13	4	41	14		158	150	1	1	3
Broadwater	23	6	16	16			107		64	9		
Morfa Harlech	25		33						179			
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	7	62	33	10	5	2	33	18	37	35	66	8
Great Orme	1	1	18	24	80	54	150	30	6	15		2
Little Orme	30	40	110		50		150	1240			20	
Rhos Point	1	7	1					10+	500	21	11	1
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay	100				100		188					95
FLINT												
Gronant	293	181	237	122	300	212	500	306		190	391	257
Point of Ayr	67	37	32	5		2	6		64	102	80	40

Other counts of 50+: PEMBROKE: 63 at Fishguard Harbour on 5 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 165 on Ynys Moelfre on 15 Jan.; FLINT: 514 on R. Clwyd on 12 Sept. and 460 here on 7 Oct.; Highest inland count: MONTGOMERY: 38 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 8 Jan.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* **GWALCH Y PYSGOD**

A small breeding population has become established since 2004. Elsewhere, an annual spring and autumn passage migrant.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	188	152
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Four nests and one other pair in suitable habitat. A bird oversummering in Radnor is a positive sign for future range expansion.

MONTGOMERY: three young fledged (two female, one male) at Cors Dyfi NNR (birds present 25 March to 20 Sept.); one male fledged at Llyn Clywedog; MEIRIONNYDD: two young fledged at Pont Croesor (birds present 22 March to 13 Sept.); another pair in the county fledged three young; DENBIGH: pair on an artificial nest site at Llyn Alwen in July; RADNOR: at least one bird summered.

Apart from the above, approximate monthly totals for each county:

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT	1		1		1			1
Llandegfedd Res.				1	2	1	3	1
E.GLAMORGAN		1						
GOWER		2	2		1	1	1+	1
CARMARTHEN	1						2	
PEMBROKE		1	1			3	2	
CEREDIGION	no records away from Dyfi est. where a pair bred							
BRECON	2				2		2	1
RADNOR	1+	1+					1	
MONTGOMERY	'handful' of reports from four sites							
MEIRIONNYDD					2			
CAERNARFON		2	2	1	1	1		
Bardsey						1	4	
ANGLESEY			2	1	1	2		
DENBIGH		2	2	1		1		
FLINT		1						

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* **BOD A'R MEL**

First confirmed breeding in 1992, now breeds in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2	6
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

No breeding records received. Only sightings were single birds: GWENT: Chepstow on 11 May; GOWER: Clyne on 21/22 May; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 24 May; Skomer, then Llanychaer, on 27 June; CAERNARFON: over Bardsey on 2 July.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus* **GWALCH GLAS**

Common and widespread breeding resident throughout Wales, some evidence that it is declining where Goshawks are abundant.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1335	1283
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis* **GWALCH MARTH**

Breeding resident in all Welsh counties, but little is known about their true status.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	143	156
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: 16 nests in the east and southeast of the county were monitored, but it was a poor breeding season. Seven nests failed and overall productivity was just 1.31 young/nest; E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding records, however an adult carried food at one site in June and breeding was suspected at another site; GOWER: probably bred at two sites and recorded at a further six during the breeding season; CARMARTHEN: courtship or breeding behaviour at six sites; PEMBROKE: three sites; CEREDIGION: suspected at a few sites although none confirmed; BRECON: 28 territories but young only noted at three; MEIRIONNYDD: one breeding record; individuals during breeding season at five other sites; CAERNARFON: five sites; ANGLESEY: two sight records during breeding season; DENBIGH: four displaying at one site.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* **BOD A'R GWERNI**

Rare breeding bird (confirmed in Anglesey, Pembrokeshire and Gower in 2016); occasionally overwinters.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	212	414
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

A further increase in records to BirdTrack (almost three times the registrations in 2015), reflecting the presence of territorial pairs at three sites and an increasing number of passage and overwintering birds.

Breeding: GWENT: min. five birds summered, from which one pair bred successfully; ANGLESEY: three nests at RSPB Cors Ddyga, one failed, the other two fledged five young; regular sightings at RSPB Valley Wetlands through the summer, but breeding not suspected.

Summary of other records for each county:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2	2	3	6	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	2
E.GLAMORGAN	2			1							2+	
GOWER	1	1	1	2				1	2			
CARMARTHEN	2			1				1	2	1	1	
PEMBROKE	1				1					1	2	2
CEREDIGION/MONTGOMERY/MEIRIONNYDD												
Dyfi estuary					1		1	3	2	1	1	
BRECON				2				1	2+			
MONTGOMERY	1		2	1								
MEIRIONNYDD	1						1	1	1			
CAERNARFON							1	1	1			
ANGLESEY	3	2				1		1			1	1
DENBIGH			1									
FLINT	1+	1+	3+	1+		1+	1+	1+	4+	1+	4+	4+

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* **BOD A TINWYN**

Small numbers breed on the uplands of north and mid-Wales, otherwise a winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	298	304
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: BRECON: one pair bred, with ringtails reported at two other sites; MONTGOMERY: two pairs held territory with one pair fledging four young; MEIRIONNYDD: 18 territorial pairs, from which 21 young fledged from 17 nests; CAERNARFON: at least four pairs, with maybe three more; DENBIGH: one nest in the Berwyn Mountains.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT			M							M	1	
Newport Wetlands Reserve		RT	M RT									
E.GLAMORGAN		5	2					RT	RT			
GOWER		RT	RT									
Llanrhidian/Staffal Haegr	M 2RT	1+	1+	1+							RT	RT
CARMARTHEN		2+									2+	
PEMBROKE											RT	M
Dowrog/St. David's	RT	IMM									2RT	
Plumstone Mountain												M RT
Dale/Marloes											2RT	RT
Skomer			2RT	2RT					RT	2RT	2RT	
Skokholm				RT					RT	2RT	RT	
CERE/MEIRI/MONT										1		
Dyfi estuary		M RT								M 2RT		
CEREDIGION												
Cors Caron		2M RT								2M 2RT		
BRECON	M	RT	2RT				RT	M 2RT	RT		M	RT
MONTGOMERY		M										
MEIRIONNYDD	2RT		RT						1	2	3	3
CAERNARFON			M							1		RT
ANGLESEY		1			M						2	
RSPB Cors Ddyga	2RT	2RT	2RT	2RT							RT	RT
Cors Erddreiniog		1		2RT	RT				M			
DENBIGH			M	6M RT	4M	M	RT		RT	RT	RT	
FLINT	1+	1+		1						1+	1+	1+

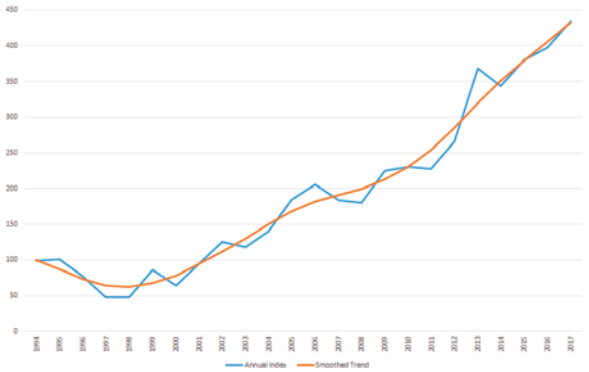
Widely recorded outside the breeding season and range. Summary of other records for each county, separated by sex where given (M = male, J = juv., RT = ring-tail):

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* **BARCUD COCH**

Formerly widespread, but almost eradicated between the late 18th and early 20th centuries. Now an increasing resident breeder in Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1629	1568
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Breeding Bird Survey: Red Kite in Wales, 1994 - 2017



It is no real surprise that the Breeding Bird Survey index reached a new high point in 2017, as their distribution continues to spread towards the periphery of Wales.

The Welsh Kite Trust monitored 180 nests (including 28 in Shropshire), reported in their newsletter at **welshkitetrust.wales**:

	Nests	Successful nests	% successful	Fledged young	Fledged per nest
Shropshire	28	19	67.9	32	1.14
East Powys	27	16	59.3	20	0.74
Pembrokeshire	10	5	50	5	0.5
SN72 Carmarthenshire	38	25	65.8	32	0.84
SN82 Brecknockshire	17	8	47.1	8	0.47
SN92 Brecknockshire	12	9	75	13	1.08
SN73 Carmarthenshire	14	11	78.6	11	0.79
SN83 Brecknockshire	10	6	60	7	0.70
SN93 Brecknockshire	13	8	61.5	8	0.62
Other	11	6	54.5	8	0.73
Total	**180**	**113**	**62.8**	**144**	**0.80**

Elsewhere: GWENT: of seven nests monitored, three were successful, rearing three, three and two chicks; two pairs failed; no data from the other two nests.

Large counts included: CARMARTHEN: 24 at Talley Lakes on 16 Dec.; CEREDIGION: over 100 at the regular feeding stations; BRECON: 26-29 at pre-roost gatherings at Sennybridge during Jan.-Feb., 19 on 4 March and 16 here on 19 Dec.; DENBIGH: 23 at Llanelidan on 13 Feb.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo* **BWNCATH**

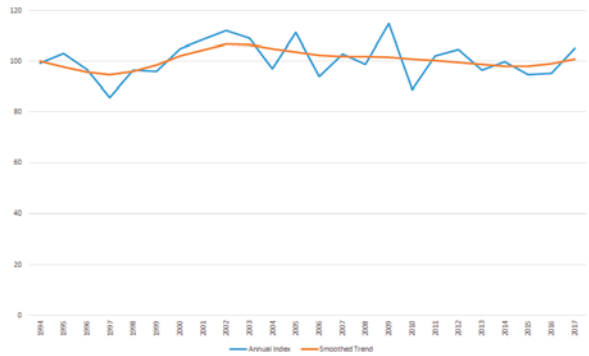
Common and widespread breeding resident throughout Wales.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	5470	6113
% of BirdTrack lists	25%	30%

The Breeding Bird Survey shows a very stable population, with presumably most suitable territories now occupied.

Large counts: GWENT: 35 over Alice Springs Golf Course, near Chain Bridge, on 1 Jan.; 22 at Garnlydan Res. on 2 July; MONTGOMERY: 20 at Dolydd Hafren on 24 May.

Breeding Bird Survey: Buzzard in Wales, 1994 - 2017



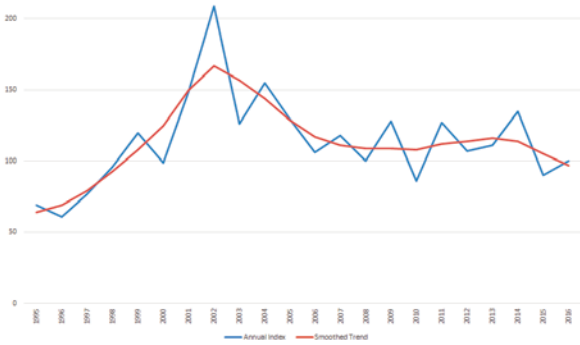
Buzzard (Bob Garrett)

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus* **RHEGEN Y DWR**

Scarce breeder (51 pairs at 36 sites in 2016), more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	643	628
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Water Rail in Wales, 1995 - 2016



Breeding: GWENT: three pairs at Newport Wetlands Reserve; possible pair at The Moorings, Newport; E.GLAMORGAN: individuals in late spring/summer at Tirfounder Fields and Kenfig NNR; GOWER: bred at Oxwich Marsh NNR; probably bred at Kenfig reedbeds and Staffal Haegr; CARMARTHEN: bred at Penclacwydd; four called at Ffrwd Fen; CEREDIGION: reported at Glandwr; two pairs held territory at RSPB Ynys-hir; CAERNARFON: possibly bred at Llyn Ystumllyn; ANGLESEY: four pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands; seven territories at RSPB Cors Ddyga; FLINT: bred at Gronant Dunes.

Non-breeding: Although the Wetland Bird Survey does not census Water Rails as well as song-playback surveys, it suggests long-term stability in the population.

Maximum autumn and winter concentrations (5+)

		Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	Newport Wetlands*	75	79	58	3					35	71	53	61
E.GLAMORGAN	Tirfounder Fields	6	6	6									
	Cardiff Bay Wetland	7	6	11								8	6
	Kenfig NNR											5	7
CARMARTHEN	Penclacwydd	5	3	3	1	2	2	2	4	2	12	6	9
BRECON	Llangorse/Llangasty	7	7	8								5	
CAERNARFON	Bardsey			4							5		
DENBIGH	RSPB Conwy	19*	4										6

*response surveyed with a tape.

Other counts of 5+ birds: E.GLAMORGAN: five at Parc Slip NR on 10 Jan.; PEMBROKE: six at Castlemartin Corse on 13 Nov.; min. six at Slebech on 28 Nov.; on Skomer, up to eight during 25-29 Sept. and on 20 Oct., 10 on 14 Nov. and 12 on 21st; CAERNARFON: five at Bardsey on 14 and 23 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 15 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 26 Nov.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* **RHEGEN YR ŶD**

Former breeder (last in 1994). Passage migrant. On WRP list, 59 records since 1991.

PEMBROKE: male calling at Bwlch y groes on 26 Aug.; CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on the very late date of 19 Nov.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* **RHEGEN FRAITH**

Rare vagrant and occasional breeder. On WRP list. 41 records since 1991. Wales Green listed.

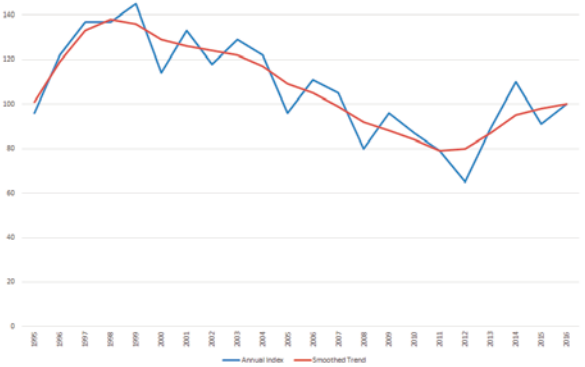
Singles: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 21 Sept. (not seen; photographed with a remote trail camera); CEREDIGION: Teifi Marshes on 9 Oct.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus* **IAR DDWR**

Widespread and locally common breeding resident and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	4378	3975
% of BirdTrack lists	23%	21%

Wetland Bird Survey: Moorhen in Wales, 1995 - 2016



Monthly max. at the main wintering sites, with 40+ at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Monmouth-Brecon Canal[1]			64				8	41	15			80
Monmouth-Brecon Canal[2]	57	56	55							54	71	68
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay inc CBWR	52	36	42	26	12	10	23	21	25	1	28	36
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr	43		7	7	5	10		21		17	31	41
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	61	71	46	47	37	36	42	63	52	68	43	51
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	9	16	13				14	31	42	29	5	10

[1] Newport to Cwmbran; [2] 14 Locks to Pontywaun

COOT *Fulica atra* **CWTIAR**

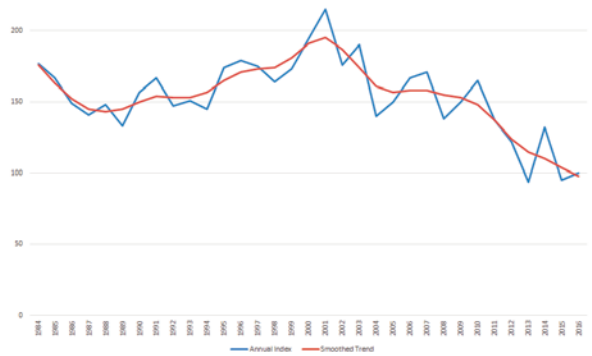
Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor, widespread throughout Wales but declining in many areas. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3651	3198
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	17%

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached its lowest point in 2016/17.

Other counts of 100+ birds not included in the table on page 63: ANGLESEY: 120+ at Llyn Llywenan on 10 July; 280 on Llyn Cefni on 7 Nov.; FLINT: 100+ at Deeside Industrial Estate on 2 Jan.; 106 at Rhyl Brickworks on 29 Dec.

Wetland Bird Survey: Coot in Wales, 1984 - 2016



Monthly max. at the main wintering sites (100+ at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Ynysyfro Res.	90	45	15	12	15	54	72	89	117	144	138	148
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	324	182	177	62	64	138	261	306	325	50	317	298
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	151	154	129	67	57	103	115	106	71	64	47	29
Roath Park Lake	162	106	79	66		103	171	135	297	232		120
Kenfig Pool	141	103	64	22	16	10	23	30	144	180	221	269
GOWER												
Eglwys Nunydd Res.						26		130+	65		15	10
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	394	364	91	14	26	34		64	111	223	333	376

CRANE *Grus grus* **GARAN**

Rare visitor, on WRP list, 52 previous records (excluding reintroduced birds).

Breeding: as in 2015 and 2016, pairs summered at two sites in southeast Wales, both having originated from the Great Crane Project reintroduction in Somerset. GWENT: pair nested on the Gwent Levels, hatching two chicks but neither is thought to have survived (the adults were at Collister Pill on 24 July and remained in the area until 29 Oct.); E.GLAMORGAN: pair in the Vale of Glamorgan from 10 March to 30 May; six over Leckwith on 25 Sept. also presumed to originate from Somerset.

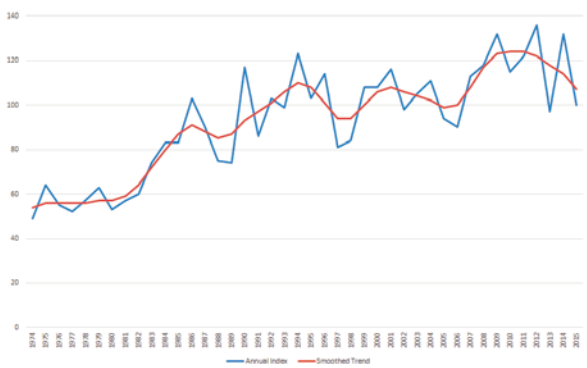
Other records: PEMBROKE: one at Goodwick on 13-14 Feb.; three over Skokholm on 25 March; ANGLESEY: three over Moelfre on 26 March presumed same as Pembrokeshire.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* **PIODEN Y MOR**

Common, chiefly coastal, breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	4885	4513
% of BirdTrack lists	25%	23%

Wetland Bird Survey: Oystercatcher in Wales, 1974 - 2016



Breeding: GWENT: five pairs at three sites; E.GLAMORGAN: no breeding reported; GOWER: pair bred at Crymlyn Burrows and probably bred at Baglan Bay and Queen's Dock; PEMBROKE: evidence from at least 16 locations including 46 pairs on Skomer and 61 on Skokholm; CEREDIGION: bred at three sites; BRECON: three pairs around Glasbury; two pairs at Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren held at least two breeding pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred near Arthog and possibly at three other sites; CAERNARFON: 84 pairs on Bardsey, with 47 nests producing a mean clutch size of 2.46; 26 young fledged, giving a productivity of 0.31 young/nest, 45.2% below the ten-year mean; bred at four other sites and possibly at another two; ANGLESEY: 15 pairs bred at Cemlyn, from which only one nest hatched chicks, which did not survive; bred at Rhosneigr; probably nested at two other sites and possibly at another two; FLINT: nested at Connah's Quay NR and near Gronant , with young seen at the latter.

Non-breeding: the short-term trend during this decade is down, but these cycles have been evident for the last three decades.

Monthly max. for sites holding 1000+ at least once during the year:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Penclawdd/Dalton's Pt	1200	797		56			800	1130	720	450	607	295
Salthouse Pt/Crofty		2000	1000					600	1650		800	1590
Wernffrwd/Llanrhidian		1000						250	3000	2500	262	1640
Weobley/Landimore	7100						8	1640	2650	6500	3550	3900
Whiteford	2810	240		900	900		4000	2600	4800	5800	3250	
Blackpill	2306	1759	474	230	244	216	144	799	1110	1086	1004	1869
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	1000		1000		100		400	350	300			
Cefn Sidan	1300	3823			2500					3500		1180
Gwendraeth estuary	8590	5060										520
Taf estuary	116	2383	3						6	5	538	1399
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	544	551	222	97					1176		76	559
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	2142	1974	481	1100	190	640	1351	4000	3758	4787	5855	6240
FLINT (Dee estuary)												
Point of Ayr	4000	800	800	1200	400	4	300	600	4000	2800	4000	4000
Ffynnongroyw Bay		400	100	10	100		700	1000	1000	5000	3000	3500
Greenfield	235	600	400	100	130	27	178	280	1350	1440	1350	460
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	450	50	20	52	50	40	60	400	1600	4000	100	40

Other counts of 1000+: CEREDIGION: 1000 at Leri est. on 2 Feb.; 1000 at Ynyslas on 5 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1000 at Black Rock on 2 Dec.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta* **CAMBIG**

Breeds in Gwent and increasing in eastern Flint, elsewhere still a scarce visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	212	399
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Breeding: GWENT: 35 pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) but raised only five young, mainly due to very high levels of avian predation.

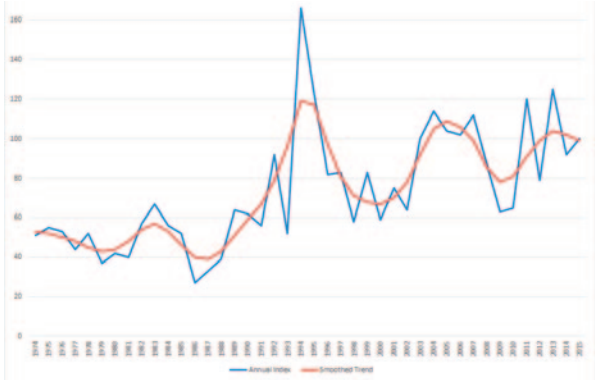
Other records: GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 17 July; BRECON: one at Llangasty on 26 March was the third county record; CARMARTHEN: one at Kidwelly Quay on 4 Feb.; one at Penclacwydd on 4 May, three here on 18 June and one on 5 Sept.; PEMBROKE: two on Skokholm on 20 April; CEREDIGION: two south off Aberaeron on 9 April; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Broadwater on 1 May; ANGLESEY: two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 4 April before flying to Malltraeth Cob; FLINT: records from White Sands, Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (max. count 12 on 8 Aug.); breeds at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, though not yet on the Welsh side of the border.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* **CORNCHWIGLEN**

Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct in many counties. It is also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially when there is hard weather to the east. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2187	2240
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	10%

Wetland Bird Survey: Lapwing in Wales, 1974 - 2016



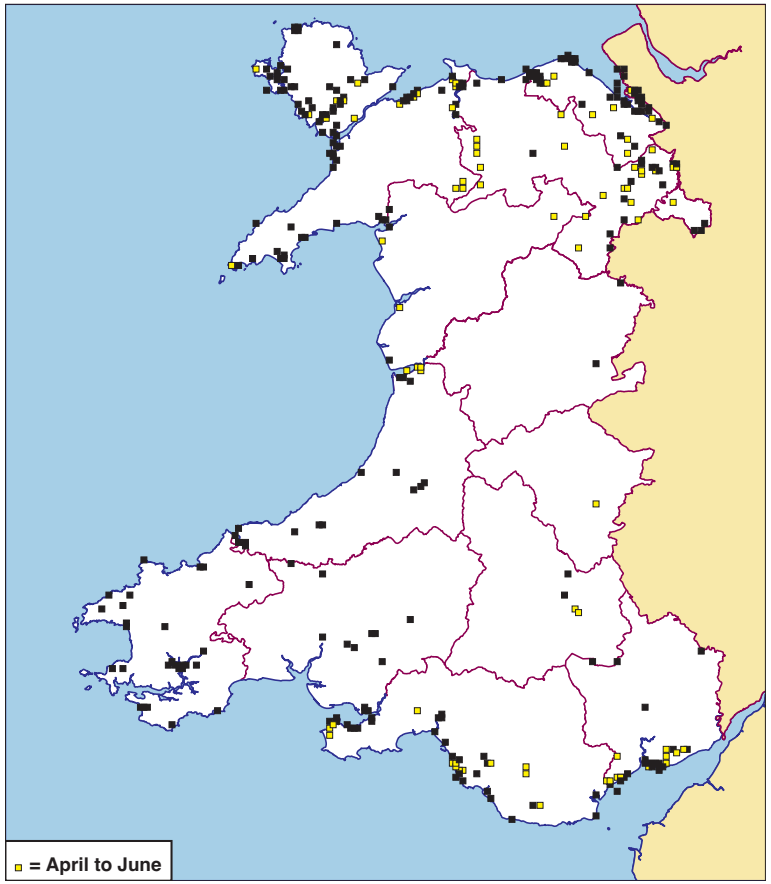
Combining the data below, Lapwings appear to have had a successful breeding season, raising 1.2 young/nest (from 114 nests), well above the 0.7 required to sustain a stable population. However, this mostly comes from three RSPB nature reserves where good quality monitoring is undertaken. Lapwings nested at 20 sites, probably bred at an additional 22 sites and possibly at 14 others, but these were mostly single displaying birds.

Breeding: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) was the only confirmed breeding site; probably bred near the Undy M4/M48 junction and at Llanover, and possibly at St. Brides Wentlooge and Llandevenny; juvenile at Llandegfedd Res. on 4 July; E.GLAMORGAN: displayed at two sites and present in suitable habitat at four others; GOWER: four nests at Queen's Dock; two nests at Paviland; two pairs with four young at Llandarcy; up to five nests at Staffal Haegr; probably bred at Kenfig rivermouth (two pairs), Morfa tip and Port Talbot Docks; present in the breeding season at five other sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at Penclacwydd (three pairs fledged two young), Cross Hands Business Park (two pairs fledged one

young) and at Cwmgwili (one pair fledged three young); CEREDIGION: 24 pairs fledged 31 young at RSPB Ynys-hir (1.3 young/pair); pair alarm calling in early May near Cwm Wyre, Llanrhystud; BRECON: 4-5 pairs at Llangorse Lake, with some chicks probably fledged; two pairs at Llangasty Pt fledged one chick; one pair at Upper Pendre-Llangorse, fledged four chicks; pair at Brechfa Pool fledged two chicks; two pairs at Ty Gwyn Farm-Llangorse, and single pairs at Plas Farm-Llangorse, at Llanwern and at Bwlch village; at Garnlydan, a polygamous male mated with two females, which produced clutches of three and four eggs. One nest was predated, the other successful; MONTGOMERY: present through the breeding season at Dolydd Hafren and Llyn Coed y Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: pair bred at Brynllech Uchaf, Llanuwchllyn; six birds on territory at Llyn Trawsfynydd; agitated behaviour at Fairbourne Spit suggests breeding; probably bred at Morfa Harlech (3-5 pairs), at Ynys Crossing, Hafod Uchel (Berwyn), Morfa Dyffryn and Moel yr Henfaes; possibly bred at Ceiriog; CAERNARFON: a good number of pairs bred at Morfa Madryn, with chicks seen; probably bred near Bryniau Duon on the Migneint; ANGLESEY: 76 pairs fledged 95 young at RSPB Cors Ddyga (productivity 1.25 young/pair); four pairs at RSPB Valley Wetlands but no young seen; display also noted at Tregaian, Cors Bodeilio and Cors Erddreiniog; DENBIGH: bred near Acrefair and at one other site; FLINT: one probable breeding pair (display) was recorded.

All BirdTrack records in 2017. The yellow dots are those recorded in April to June, showing that as an upland breeding species, Lapwings are mostly restricted to sites in Northeast Wales:

Lapwing (n = 339)



Non-breeding: the sharp decline in the Lapwing nesting population is not reflected in numbers visiting outside the breeding season.

Regular counts at the main wintering areas, holding 500+ at least once:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*		*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT								
Undy foreshore	500	580	18			17	184	460
Newport Wetlands Reserve	2000	1200	46		91	140	800	1166
GOWER								
Llanrhidian	378	623	73		20	40	400	450
Landimore/Whiteford	80	670					420	150
CARMARTHEN								
Penclacwydd	972	822	18		70	60	300	367
Gwendraeth estuary	250	750	37		2	150	180	
Tywi estuary	500	1253				9	154	
Taf estuary	400	779						200
PEMBROKE								
Cleddau estuary	3565	1844	1			13	1378	693
CEREDIGION								
Dyfi estuary	2863	1185	65				1398	1519
Teifi estuary	105	600						950
MEIRIONNYDD								
Broadwater	1500	1000				18	21	2000
Morfa Harlech	1500	416						
CAERNARFON								
Foryd	660	160			120	3	30	70
ANGLESEY								
Cemlyn	1000+	400						410
Malltraeth/Cefni estuary	2000						800	
FLINT								
Rhyl	2500+	3800+						
Point of Ayr	1000				1			
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	3000	800				400	2000	1000
White Sands	650				109	142	417	400

Other large flocks (500+): GWENT: 580 north of Collister Pill on 9 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Flemingston Moor on 11 Dec.; 800 at Ogmore est. on 31 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Picton Ferry on 31 Jan.; 1500 at Castlemartin Corse on 4 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 2000 along the Clettwr est. in Dec.; DENBIGH: 1000 at Kinmel Bay on 8 Jan. and 1500 on 2 Feb.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* **CWTIAD AUR**

Scarce and declining breeding species, found chiefly on the upland plateaux of Denbigh, Radnor, Ceredigion and Brecon. Localised in winter, usually in large flocks. Wales Red listed.

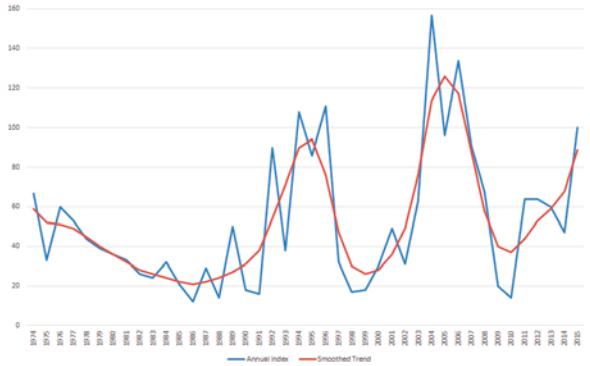
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	290	385
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Only three confirmed and three probable pairs in Wales, and a further 10 possible pairs, though the reports below do not include Radnor, whence no information was received.

Breeding: BRECON: one pair confirmed, and at least two more pairs probably bred in the eastern Brecon

Beacons; five pairs in the core area in the Black Mountains but no reports from peripheral breeding sites that have held territorial birds in recent years; possibly bred on Abergwesyn Common (two males and two females present on several dates in May/June) and on Waun Lydan (two on 7 May); MEIRIONNYDD: nested on Moel Sych and Cadair Berwyn (near the county border); two birds at a nesting site at Cwm Hesgyn on 28 April; CAERNARFON: one probable territory near Ffynnon Eidda; pair near Foel Boeth; DENBIGH: two May records from adjacent squares in the Berwyn where birds probably bred (possibly the same as the Meirionnydd birds); also reported from one other site.

Wetland Bird Survey: Golden Plover in Wales, 1974 - 2016



Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey rarely records Golden Plovers on farmland, the index for Wales shows an upward trend, having been cyclical for the last three decades.

Records here are rather incomplete but monthly max. at major wintering areas (holding 400 at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN									
Sker area	900	550	320	135		40	350	702	787
GOWER									
North Gower saltings	741	1500	800	70		21	1160	1100	1800
CARMARTHEN									
Gwendraeth estuary	2500	1000	1500	200			1000	3000	6000
Taf estuary	2800	2000							300
PEMBROKE									
Castlemartin Corse		1500						1000	
Cleddau estuary	1725	800					45	475	3000
CEREDIGION									
Dyfi estuary	1800	1020							1200
Llanrhystud/Llanon	650		702				400		
MEIRIONNYDD									
Broadwater	2000	1600				1	600	25	200
CAERNARFON									
Morfa Dinlle/Foryd	1030	900+	60				1000	1100	200
ANGLESEY									
Cemlyn	263		432	438			550+		

Other large winter flocks (400+) in coastal counties: E.GLAMORGAN: 500 at Norton Farm on 12 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 2000 at Picton Ferry on 17 Feb.; 2000 at Square & Compass on 4 Dec.; 1500 at Little Milford on 24 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 600 near Cardigan on 3 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 500 on Tonfanau shore on 8 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 500 at Llangian near Abersoch on 4 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 2000 at Aberffraw on 11 Nov.

Inland sites holding 70+ birds at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Oct	Nov	Dec
Llandefalle Hill	40	43	129	128			125	
Mynydd Illtud	16	42				86	29	2

Other large inland counts (70+): CARMARTHEN: *c.*70 at Garreg Lwyd on 2 April and 104 here on 15th; CEREDIGION: 200 at Pennant on 26 Nov.; 350 at Post Bach on 11 Dec.; BRECON: 150 on Gorllwyn (W) on 2 Nov.; 85 on Tŵr Pen Cyrn (Mynydd Llangatwg) on 19 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 155 near Llanerfyl on 13 Oct.; 70 south of Dolfor on 14 Nov.; DENBIGH: 200 at Llyn Aled Isaf on 23 Oct.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica* **CORGWTIAD AUR**

Rare American vagrant, on WRP list. 14 previous records.

PEMBROKE: adult on the Gann est. on 27-30 May and 1CY here on 6-15 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 1CY at Dinas Dinlle from 30 Sept. to 10 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 2CY at Llanfwrog on 1 June.

2016: MEIRIONNYDD: one on the Broadwater, Tywyn, on 30 Oct. 2016.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* **CWTIAD LLWYD**

Widespread but localised winter visitor to Welsh estuaries, and spring and autumn migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	297	306
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

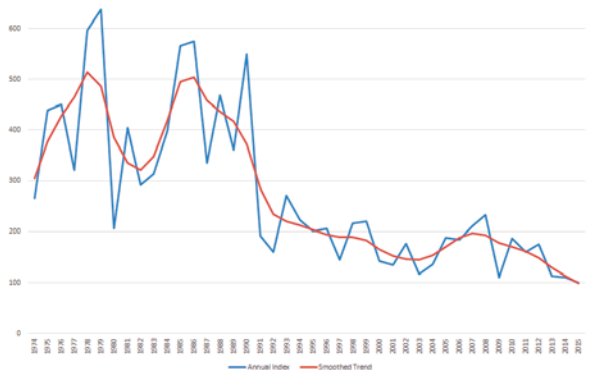
The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has reached its lowest point since it was created in the mid 1970s. Numbers declined significantly in the 1990s and continue to fall.

Monthly max. at sites holding counts of 40+ at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Undy foreshore	46	41	37	42	3						4	2
Newport Wetlands Reserve	104	23	55	16	40	9		1	3	34	32	41
Peterstone Wentlooge	65	36	15	11	6					3	14	20
GOWER												
Whiteford Pt	116	71	78		34			10				81
Wernffrwd/Weobley	304	70		12					12	33		
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	33	72	17							1	5	14
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	68	40	4	1					1	2		2
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	52	74	118	10	12				7	max. 20		
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary	75	60							2			

Other counts (40+): GOWER: 70 at Salthouse Pt on 12 Feb.; 56 at Penclawdd on 8 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 45 at Castlemartin Ranges on 22 Jan.; 49 at Hook on 11 Feb.

Wetland Bird Survey: Grey Plover in Wales, 1974 - 2016

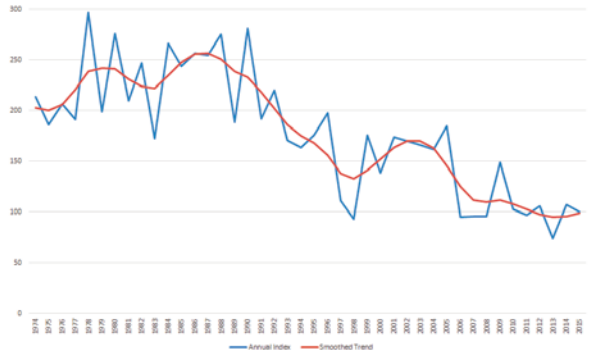


RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* — CWTIAD TORCHOG

Scarce breeder, also a common passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1263	1250
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

Wetland Bird Survey: Ringed Plover in Wales, 1974 - 2015



Breeding: nesting confirmed at 18 locations, probably at five more and possibly at one other. GOWER: four pairs hatched chicks at Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: no breeding reports; GOWER: single pairs with young at four sites; single nests at four other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: pair bred at Llandanwg beach; CAERNARFON: two pairs, possibly three, bred at Morfa Madryn; two pairs bred at Morfa Aber; probably bred at Penrhyn Bay; territorial pair at Morfa Abererch; ANGLESEY: one pair bred at Cemlyn; three recently fledged young on The Range on 6 July; DENBIGH: probably bred at Horton's Nose; FLINT: several records of confirmed breeding.

Monthly max. at sites holding 100+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve					105		154	275				35
GOWER												
Whiteford	64	9		39	289		47	75	65			32
Crymlyn Burrows	45	5		2	4			52	141	137		39
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	113		40	5	12	10	7	111	61	44		
CEREDIGION												
Borth/Ynyslas				560	130			940	150			
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	50	13	13	8	3	2	4	150	110	113	128	52
FLINT												
Point of Ayr				6	12	12	10	100	150	30		
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh					4			200	12			

Non-breeding: although widespread around the Welsh coast, the Wetland Bird Survey index is at less than half its level of the 1980s.

Large counts (100+) not included in the table on page 70: GWENT: 100 at St Brides Wentlooge on 13 May; 110 at West Usk Lighthouse on 13 May; PEMBROKE: 250 on the Teifi est. on 5 May; MEIRIONNYDD: passage at Ynys Crossing saltings peaked at 300 on 3 May; 100 on the Artro est. on 13 Aug.; 100+ on Ynys Crossing saltings on 20 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Rhoscolyn on 19 Aug., with 239 here on 23rd; 100 on Traeth Cymyran on 27 Aug.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* — CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Summer visitor, breeding in small numbers on the gravel shoals of rivers in south and east Wales and on industrial sites in northeast Wales (31 pairs in 2016). Elsewhere it is an uncommon passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	161	235
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: four pairs bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); pair at Llandegfedd Res. on 1 July thought to be a failed breeding pair, although eight birds (not aged) were on the north shore on 7 July; E.GLAMORGAN: pair bred at Rhaslas Pond, but young thought to have been predated; pair in dunes at Kenfig NNR; pair at Llanilid in April and May when display was observed; GOWER: agitated bird at Red Jacket Pill on 31 May was also present on 18 June; CARMARTHEN: no counts of the breeding population in the Tywi valley but up to four in Dryslwyn area during spring/early summer and a 1CY bird was here on 1 Sept.; BRECON: two pairs bred on quarry waste at Ystrad (both had chicks); single pairs at Blaen Dyffryn Quarries, Talybont Res. and Llangasty (raised one chick); MONTGOMERY: present at Dolydd Hafren from 5 April to 2 July with a max. count of five, suggesting at least two breeding pairs; MEIRIONNYDD: pair on the north side of the Dyfi est. on 4 May with birds still on site on 6 July so presumably bred; pairs seen at two other sites; DENBIGH: pair probably bred at one site; FLINT: breeding confirmed at three sites.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	21 March	NWR Goldcliff		10 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	**17 March**	**Rhaslas Pond**		3 Aug.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	14 April	Staffal Haegr		2 July	Kenfig dunes
CARMARTHEN	25 March	Dryslwyn		1 Sept.	Dryslwyn
CEREDIGION	25 March	RSPB Ynys-hir		16 July	Cors Caron
BRECON	4 April	Llangasty		4 July	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	24 March	Caersws		2 July	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	4 May	R. Dyfi		25 June	Glaslyn estuary
CAERNARFON	25 June	Porthmadog		6 July	Traeth Crugan
ANGLESEY	26 March	RSPB Cors Ddyga		22 May	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	27 March	Llay Pool		19 July	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	3 April	Connah's Quay NR		**7 Nov.**	**near Buckley**

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* **HUTAN Y MYNYDD**

Uncommon migrant in spring and autumn; nesting confirmed or suspected sporadically. Wales Amber listed.

Spring records: CARMARTHEN: six at Garreg Lwyd on 1 May and two here on 7 May; CEREDIGION: two near summit of Pumlumon on 21 April; BRECON: two on Pen Cerrig-calch above Crickhowell on 22 April; MEIRIONNYDD: two males and a female at Pen Bryn y Fawnog on 8 May; CAERNARFON: one on the Great Orme on 25 April; all other records came from the Carneddau, starting with four on Foel Fras on the early date of 19 April, then two on Drosgl on 29 April, five between Bera Bach and Yr Aryg on 2 May, five on Drum and three on Foel Grach on 7 May, and five on Foel Fras on 8 May; ANGLESEY: three on The Range on 26 April; seven near Rhydwyn on 6 May.

Return passage: BRECON: one on Pen Allt Mawr on 1 Sept.; ANGLESEY: two juveniles on The Range from 24 Sept. to 1 Oct. and a moulting adult here from 8-15 Oct.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus* **COEGYLFINIR**

Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland, small numbers occasionally over-winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	834	780
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	3%

Monthly max. at sites holding 30+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Undy foreshore				67	13	1	25	5	3			
Peterstone Wentlooge				111	31	2	3	5	1			
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Pool & dunes					42			8			1	
Sker Point area			22	23	53		2					
GOWER												
Whiteford				30	58		33	105	12			
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd			1	106	63	4	7	10	2			
CEREDIGION												
Ynyslas				150	25		15					
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	1	2	3	70	47	7	10	29	16	9	2	3
ANGLESEY												
Cemlyn/Hen Borth	1	1		32	33	1+	16					
Inland Sea				60	95							

Other large counts (30+): GWENT: 100+ between the Cardiff boundary and Peterstone Gout on 27 April; GOWER: 143 at Penclawdd on 27 April; 65 at Salthouse Pt on 29 April; 35 at Upper Loughor on 9 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 53 at Pwll on 24 April; 35 at Burry Port on 4 May; PEMBROKE: 32 at Carew-Cresswell on 2 May; 31 on Skomer on 21 May; 40 on Skomer on 29 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 50 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 28 April; MEIRIONNYDD: at Ynys Crossing saltings, passage peaks of 90 on 28 April and 63 on 4 May; 46 over Morfa Harlech on 16 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 35 at Morfa Nefyn on 7 May increasing to 110 on 8th; ANGLESEY: 43 at Aberffraw on 18 April; 33 at Rhoscolyn on 30 April; FLINT: 32 near Rhyl on 27 April; 36 at Gronant on 19 July.

Winter records: CAERNARFON: one or two intermittently on Bardsey in Jan. and Feb., one of which was ringed on the island in late 2016. Two birds over-wintered in the second period, with three seen on 14 Dec.; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn during the first winter period and again on 31 Dec.; one at Aberffraw on 28 March may have been a wintering bird; single at Penmon Pool on 24 Dec.; DENBIGH: one at Kinmel Bay on 8 March may have been a wintering bird.

Inland records (all singles): GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 21 July; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron on 1 May; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 16 April; Beacons Res. on 6 May; Brechfa Pool on 8 May; Llangorse Lake on 17 May.

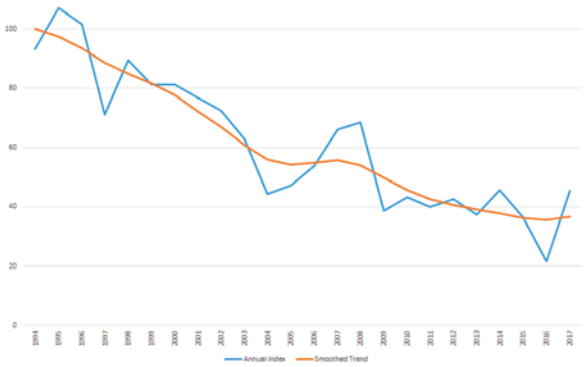
CURLEW *Numenius arquata* **GYLFINIR**

Widespread but declining breeding species in upland Wales and a few lowland sites, and an abundant winter visitor mainly to coastal areas, where small numbers are present all year round. Wales Red listed.

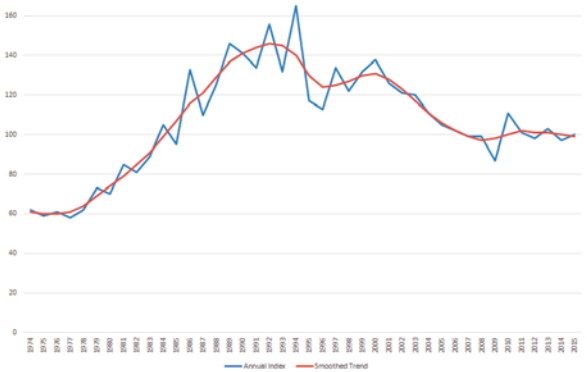
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3719	3615
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	18%

Despite an upward bounce from its 2016 low, the Breeding Bird Survey trend index for Wales is 64% below its 1995 level, when the Curlew had already become a scarce breeding species in many places that it had formerly inhabited. WOS is part of a collaborative initiative, Gylfynir Cymru, that seeks to reverse this decline but in the immediate future there must be a real concern that numbers will fall below the minimum sample size for the BBS.

Breeding Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Wetland Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales, 1974 - 2015



Breeding: nesting confirmed at five sites, probably at 25, and possibly at a further 16. GWENT: one probable breeding record and four possible but none confirmed; E.GLAMORGAN: no confirmed breeding but display and calling at Gelligaer Common, Bargoed and Taff Bargoed and one present at Bwlch-Werfa on 8 April; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Cilycwm; PEMBROKE: three pairs on Skomer but no confirmed fledging; CEREDIGION: breeding season records at Cors Caron and near Ffair Rhos; BRECON: territories at 16 sites, but some traditional territories were unoccupied; probable pair at Penfedw (Beulah) was the first sighting here for over 16 years; MONTGOMERY: scattered breeding attempts across the county; MEIRIONNYDD: territories noted at ten locations in the Migneint, North Berwyn and around Llyn Trawsfynydd, where three to five pairs were present; CAERNARFON: territories at seven locations, but only nest confirmed with young on Mynytho

Common; ANGLESEY: two territorial pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga; two pairs displayed at Cors Erddreiniog; DENBIGH: many inland records of small numbers in March and April, but no records of confirmed breeding.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has plateauxed in the last decade, having fallen by 50% since 1990, but these are long-lived birds, so this may give a false impression of breeding success across its breeding range if nesting success is low.

Monthly max. at sites holding 500+ birds at least once during the year:

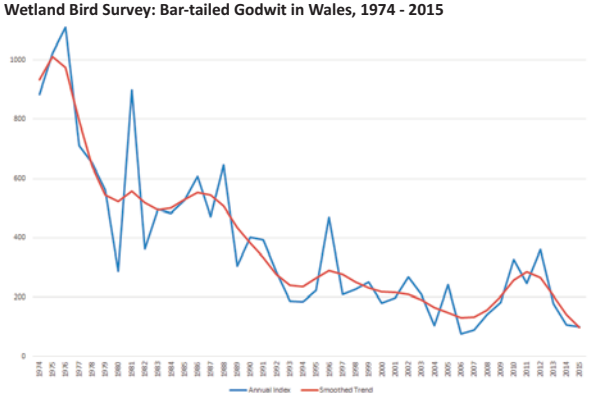
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Crofty/Wernffrwd	35	37	23	9		115	100	850	65	107	44	60
Llanrhidian	80	40	38	9		54	297	292	530	34	89	140
Whiteford Point	830	145	22	6		23	182	86	360	143	318	42
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	300	150	153	14		144	542	500	436	320	350	503
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	391	302	96				1244		328	383	419	449
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	844	255	500	27					659	500	778	742
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	1138	1684	857	50	7	400	920	1493	2025	930	1635	814
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy	17	200	109	24	1	21	273	212	500	167	47	5
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	850	750	1000	800	42	32	1200	1200	1200	1100	800	400

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* **RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH**

Passage migrant and winter visitor, more numerous in autumn than spring. Rare away from the coasts but has been recorded in all inland counties. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	290	305
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Bar-tailed Godwit in Wales, 1974 - 2015



The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline since the 1970s. Its new low in 2015/16 is at just 10% of its 1975/76 peak. Now only small numbers occur in most coastal counties.

Counts of 50+ not included in the table on page 75: E.GLAMORGAN: 89 over Lock's Common on 20 April; GOWER: 233 at Dalton's Pt on 31 Jan., 123 here on 1 Feb. and 76 on 12th; 83 at Salthouse Pt on 3 Jan. and 85 here on 12 Feb.; 550 at Penclawdd on 20 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 50 at Ynyslas in mid-April; FLINT: 60 at Hawarden Bridge on 6 Nov.; 60 at Point of Ayr on 19 Nov.

Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once):

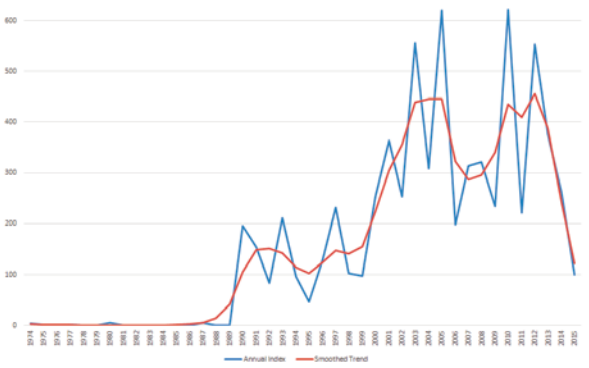
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CARMARTHEN												
Pwll/Pembrey	1		104	119	105			2	5	25		
Cefn Sidan			100	4					6	3		
Gwendraeth estuary	3		101		2			1	6			
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	93	107	90	186					19	29	66	133

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* **RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU**

Common spring and autumn passage migrant; it is common to abundant and increasing in winter on the Dee. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	958	1399
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	6%

Wetland Bird Survey: Black-tailed Godwit in Wales, 1974 - 2015



The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, having shown huge growth in the 1990s, has gone into rapid reverse in recent years, returning to its turn-of-the-century level.

Monthly max. at sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	52	28	137	182	24	37	61	191	160	32	335	600
Peterstone Wentlooge			33	15	1	5	1	26	2	30	200	
GOWER												
Staffal Haegr			154		516	317			81	50		42
Penclawdd	782	699	235	108	1080		17	122	250	220		35
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	945	737	465	770	568	368	530	748	1247*	950	1100	712
Gwendraeth estuary		4	127					2	3		17	
Tywi estuary									50	13		271
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	10	24	54						2	3	14	18
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	25	10	2	2	1	16		7	9	9	85	82
ANGLESEY												
Malltraeth Marsh	8		14	6		6		45	18		138	220
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	100			3					100	150	10	100
Flint	100	260	150		120			650			450	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	400	1500	200	400	14		30	2000	3000	3000	4000	6

* county record

Other large counts (50+): GWENT: 705 at Newport Docks (as part of M4 Relief Road Survey) in Dec.; GOWER: 317 south of Loughor Bridge on 5 May; 222 at Upper Loughor est. on 6 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 103 at Glynea Pond on 26 Jan.; 127 at Morfa Bacas on 5 Aug.; FLINT: 500 at Connah's Quay NR on 5 March; 2000 at Talacre on 13 Dec.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* **CWTIAD Y TRAETH**

Passage migrant in spring and autumn but most abundant in winter. A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. It is rare inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1156	1082
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	6%

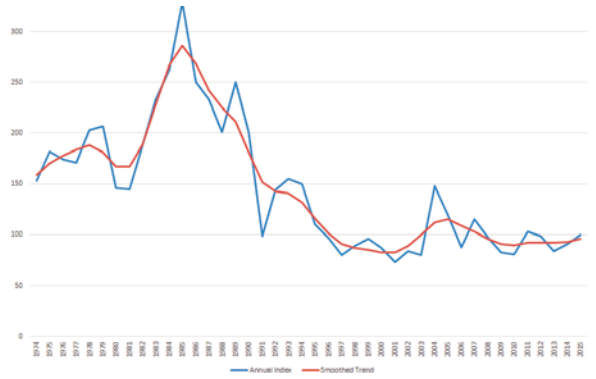
The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable for 20 years having fallen dramatically in the late 1980s.

Monthly max. at the main sites (holding counts of 50 at least once):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	20	25	60	32	32	26	32	7	28	14	45	22
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rest Bay & Sker Point	44	40	70	20	15	32	20	45	28	18	70	7
Sully beach	69		55	20	5		3	37	51	38	29	25
Swanbridge/Sully Island	5		60	9	15		9	33	42	6	22	6
GOWER												
Knab Rock/ Bracelet Bay	85	97	70	18			78	180	134	105	47	79
Whiteford Point	60	90			12		2		1	61	55	19
Swansea Docks	52	11								75		
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey			15	7	5				39	83	19	62
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	162	58	66							26	51	56
CEREDIGION												
Llanrhystud	37			20	12			42	14	55		
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	29	26	78	25	35	5	25	77	55	42	40	25
Foryd	60	80	100	24					90	138	80	100
Traeth Lafan	45	110	50	70	21			35	13	1	20	30
Llandudno	75	60	65						60		11	6
lower Conwy estuary	210	261	171	50			2		25	27		110
Rhos Point	110	17	17						70		60	25
DENBIGH												
Rhos-on-Sea	86		3	4								
Llanddulas		14		34						41	78	4
Kinmel Bay	325	133		300				260		230		

Other counts of 50+: CARMARTHEN: 70 at Tywyn Bach on 4 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 50 on The Smalls on 19 and 21 April; ANGLESEY: 50 at Llanddwyn Island on 18 April; DENBIGH: 250 at Horton's Nose on 30 March; FLINT: 68 near Mostyn on 3 Dec.

Wetland Bird Survey: Turnstone in Wales, 1974 - 2015

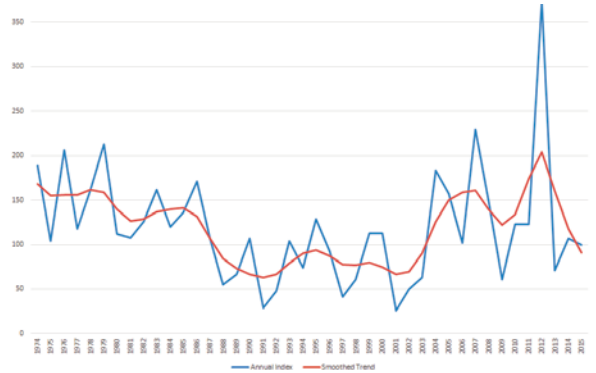


KNOT *Calidris canutus* **PIBYDD YR ABER**

Common winter visitor to some of the major estuaries, but relatively scarce elsewhere, also a passage migrant in spring and autumn. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	399	210
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Knot in Wales, 1974 - 2015



The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fluctuates but has generally returned to its 1980s level following a period of increase. A marked decrease has been noted on the Dee est. and in Carmarthen Bay, but the Burry Inlet remains an important wintering area in a Welsh context.

Monthly max. at sites holding 300+ at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentlooge	80	30		8					1	25		450
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	6	440	2									
GOWER												
Penclawdd/Crofty		3000							90	192	1292	600
Wernffrwd/ Llanrhidian	2860	800								360		1000
Weobley	7200									350	410	1600
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	3000	4000		33	49	4	2	15	220	600	480	2000
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	545		12	25	1				4			3100
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	600	2	1							13	40	

Other counts of 300+: GOWER: 300 at Whiteford Pt on 27 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 380 on the Braint est. on 2 Jan.

RUFF *Calidris pugnax* **PIBYDD TORCHOG**

Fairly common passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	177	358
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Monthly max from sites recording 10+ birds at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)	3		2	5	3	3	11	2	18	11	6	1
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary								1	10			
Cemlyn					1				19	*c.*25		
RSPB Cors Ddyga			1		1		1		43	54		

Other counts of 10+ birds: GWENT: 16 on the pool at Peterstone Gout on 2 July; ANGLESEY: 17 at Carmel Head on 7 Oct.; FLINT: 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 10 Sept.

Approximate monthly totals (including those listed above):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	3		2	5	3	3	27	2	18	11	6	2
E.GLAMORGAN				2	4				4			
GOWER			1						2	1		
CARMARTHEN		4	4	3				3	11	2	1	
PEMBROKE			1	4	3		2		4	1	9	3
CEREDIGION				6	2	1		1	9			
BRECON										1		
MONTGOMERY										1		
MEIRIONNYDD					1					1		
CAERNARFON									14	4		
ANGLESEY			1		2		1	1	79	96		
DENBIGH								1	1			
FLINT	3	1	5	1+	1+	1+		1+	12	1+	1+	3

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: a colour-ringed bird at Kidwelly Quay on 3 Feb. had been ringed at Oude Veerseweg, Netherlands, on 6 Feb. 2016; MONTGOMERY: one ringed near Llanerfyl on 21 Oct. was the first county record since 2014.

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Calidris falcinellus* **PIBYDD LLYDANBIG**

Rare vagrant breeding in northern Scandinavia and Russia, on BBRC list. Nine previous records.

ANGLESEY: one on the Alaw est. on 1-2 May.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* **PIBYDD CAMBIG**

Uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, recorded in every month but principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	339	100
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

A fairly typical year, the autumn returning to normal following an influx in 2016.

Spring passage: GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 29 April, possibly same on 1 May; one here on 25-29 May; GOWER: one at Whiteford Pt on 6 May; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 5 April and two here on 30 May; PEMBROKE: two at Angle Bay on 8 May; CEREDIGION: one at Ynyslas on 27 May; ANGLESEY: singles at Cemlyn on 19 and 31 May.

Return passage: GWENT: 1CY at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 9-10 Sept. and three here on 11th; GOWER: one at Port Eynon on 10 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: recorded at Kidwelly Quay between 24 July and 25 Oct., max. counts five on 19 Sept. and an impressive 31 on 9 Oct.; PEMBROKE: singles at Angle on 23 Sept. and 21-22 Oct.; two at Nevern est. on 11 Sept. and one here on 29 Oct.; CEREDIGION: one at Ynys Tachwedd on 1 Aug.; two at Ynyslas on 8 and 15 Sept. and one here on 18-21 Sept.; one at Llanrhystud on 29 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: three at Aberdysynni on 30 Aug.; one at Llyn Bach, Glaslyn, on 13 Sept. with two here on 17th; CAERNARFON: four at Aber Ogwen on 23 July; singles passed Bardsey on 25 and 30 Aug. and 1 Sept.; ANGLESEY: one on the Alaw est. on 10 Sept., then two on 26th, with 1-2 present until 4 Oct.; two on the Cefni est. on 14 Sept; two 1CY at Malltraeth on 30 Sept. with one on 4 Oct.; one at Cemlyn on 2 Nov.; DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy on 10 Sept.; FLINT: 1-6 on the R.Clwyd at Rhyl on dates between 15 Aug. and 10 Oct., max. counts six on 26 Sept. and 10 Oct.; one at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13 Dec.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* **PIBYDD TEMMINCK**

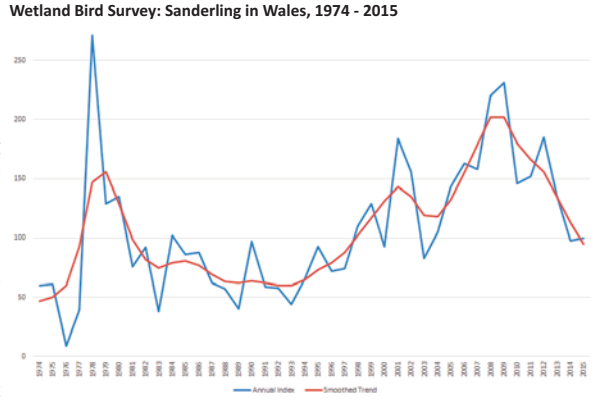
Rare vagrant breeding in northeast Europe and northern Russia. On WRP list; 58 previous records.

GWENT: two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 1-14 May, increasing to three on 13-14th; CEREDIGION: one at Llanon on 18 July; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 31 May.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* **PIBYDD Y TYWOD**

Winter visitor, locally common on sandy beaches in Flint, Carmarthen and Glamorgan. A spring and autumn migrant on the coast. Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	324	296
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%



Non-breeding: numbers have fallen during the current decade, following an increase over the previous 20 years.

Flocks of 50+ not included in the table on page 80: E.GLAMORGAN: 250 between Pink Bay and Sker Pt on 21 March, and 400 here on 3 April; 111 at Ffynon-wen Rocks on 23 March and 50 here on 10 Aug.; 50 at Irongate Pt on 12 April; GOWER: 358 at Salthouse Pt on 5 Feb.; *c.*320 on Margam Sands on 1 April and 95 here on 31 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*350 at Pwll on 15 Jan. and 87 here on 16 April; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: 50 on the Glaslyn/Dwyryd est. in March; 50 at Morfa Harlech on 31 March; 130 on Morfa Dyffryn beach on 5 April;

61 at the Artro est. in Dec.; CAERNARFON: 93 at Llandudno West Shore on 14 Feb.; 105 at Morfa Abererch on 1 May; ANGLESEY: 77 at Traeth Crigyll on 21 July; FLINT: 62 near Gronant on 12 Feb.; 210 at Gronant dunes on 2 Aug.

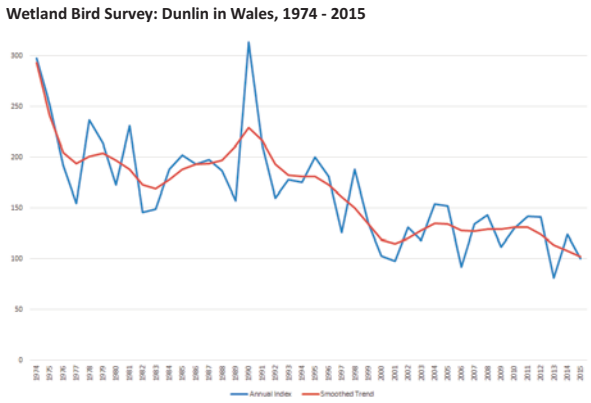
Monthly max. at sites holding 50+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Kenfig Sands/Sker Point	60	15	400+	450+	100+		130	150	63	88	353	139
GOWER												
Aberavon Beach	170	260	360								200	258
Crymlyn Burrows					9			59	231	305	239	229
Whiteford	12				4			5				75
CARMARTHEN												
Burry Port/Pembrey	250		300	50	400		67	200	250	400	300	
Cefn Sidan	180	350	200	64	300			300		300		140
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	22	3	21	6	70		40	3	17	1	3	3
DENBIGH/CAERNARFON												
lower Conwy estuary	22	40	20					102	4	3		20
DENBIGH												
Kinmel Bay		474							70	160		200

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* **PIBYDD Y MAWN**

Scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few poorly drained upland moors with scattered pools. An abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1733	1843
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	9%



Breeding: BRECON: seen at two traditional breeding sites: probably bred on Abergwesyn Common, and possibly in improving habitat in the Black Mountains; MEIRIONNYDD: one singing at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 9-19 May, with three others present.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has reached a new low, just one-third of its mid-1970s baseline. This decline is greater than that recorded in Scotland or England, but similar to Northern Ireland, suggesting west/east differences.

ANGLESEY: 1000 on the Inland Sea on 2 Jan.

Monthly max. at sites holding 1000+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Mathern		200								50	73	1000
Undy foreshore	4500	2800	71	210	24		16	45	117	350	1300	2000
Newport Wetlands Reserve	1200	600	121	605	625	100	580	460	120	187	2000	657
Peterstone Wentlooge	1200	4500	200	100	110	2	15	50	400	428	950	4450
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	2000	2430	120									
GOWER												
Penclawdd/Crofty	460	2000								186	230	200
Wernffrwd/Weobley	7300	750		22	108				10	1692	105	2000
Whiteford	1400	700	171	29	657		24	286	49	2	70	600
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	2290	1676	371						98	48	2106	3214
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	300	500	150	2400	250	10	235	1500	300	195	626	990
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	2825	1279	87	9	300			31	8	105	2701	2263
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	2000	2200	2	1	200	4	3	100	150	75	2500	
Greenfield	4000	800									280	350
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	200	4500	300	1	200			800	100	300	500	1000

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* **PIBYDD DU**

Localised winter visitor in small numbers to coastal areas with rocky shorelines. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	89	79
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

This species appears to be declining in Wales, with counts at most of the regular sites down in recent years.

Counts of 10+: GOWER: 12 at Rhossili causeway on 5 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 45 on The Smalls on 19 and 21 April; ANGLESEY: 12 flew west at Point Lynas on 12 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper (Bob Garrett)

Monthly max. at sites holding 10+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rest Bay	2	2	13		7					5	12	
Sker Point area	5	2	14	9	17						18	4
GOWER												
Port Eynon	15	15	14							2	17	5
CEREDIGION												
Aberystwyth	8	9	10	5	3					1	9	8
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	20	27	27	20	15		4	6	5	30	35	15
ANGLESEY												
Cemlyn			10	8			1					

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* **PIBYDD BACH**

Uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn and has occasionally wintered. It is rare inland. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	196	86
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

GWENT: probable over-wintering bird at Peterstone Wentlooge on 24 and 26 March; two at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 4 and 13-14 May, then singles here on 16-18 Aug. and 16 Sept., two on the 17th, three on 19th, six on 21st, seven on 28-29th, with sightings continuing through Oct. to the last on 18 Nov.; three at Usk East Lighthouse on 13 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Portobello Island (Ogmore est.) on 11 Dec.; GOWER: two at Salthouse Pt on 29 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: single birds at Penclacwydd on 5 Sept. and 28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: two birds at Poppit during 17-25 Sept.; 1CY on Skokholm from 27 Sept. to 2 Oct.; CEREDIGION: singles at Ynyslas on 30 May, 15 and 21 Sept. and 6 Nov.; on the Teifi est. on 17 and 24 Sept.; two at Llanrhystud on 26 Sept., three on 27-29th, five on 30th, four on 1 Oct., two on 2nd-5th and four late birds on 29 Nov.; singles at RSPB Ynys-hir on 27-28 Sept. and at Glandwr on 3 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Broadwater on 6 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one passed Bardsey on 6 Sept.; ANGLESEY: one at Four Mile Bridge on 6 May; one at Cemlyn on 27-28 May; one at Traeth Dulas on 22 Sept.; 1-3 on the Alaw est. during 26 Sept. to 2 Oct.; two on the Inland Sea on 29-30 Sept.; two at Cemlyn on 5 Oct.; DENBIGH: three at RSPB Conwy, the first on 30 July and the last on 25 Oct.; FLINT: 26 records from five 1-km squares, between 17 Sept. (five at Connah's Quay NR) and 10 Oct., max. count of 12 near Rhyl on 30 Sept.-1 Oct.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Calidris subruficollis* **PIBYDD BRONLLWYD**

Rare vagrant from North America, on WRP list. 62 previous records.

CAERNARFON: one on Bardsey on 15-16 Sept. This is the fifth record for the island and for the county.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* **PIBYDD CAIN**

Scarce visitor from North America, on WRP list. 143 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skokholm on 30 Aug.

SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER *Calidris pusilla* **PIBYDD LLWYD**

Rare American vagrant, on BBRC list. Eight previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: moulting adult at Sully on 12-13 Aug., was the third county record.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER *Limnodromus scolopaceus* **GÏACH GYLFIN-HIR**

Rare vagrant from Nearctic, on BBRC list. 17 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 1 Nov., flew towards the mainland.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* **CYFFYLOG**

Regular breeder in small numbers in all counties except Pembroke and Anglesey. It is widespread and common/abundant in winter. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	181	153
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

The breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood, but records of breeding or possible breeding are getting fewer. All records suggesting possible breeding are given: GWENT: two flushed at Broad Meend several times in ten days around 20 April were thought to be on the verge of laying eggs; at least two birds roding at Broad Meend on 30 May with four roding here on 19 June; GOWER: 'breeding calls heard' at Dyffryn Cellwen on 1 May; BRECON: after many years without breeding records, an adult was seen in June with two chicks at BWT Craig-y-Rhiwarth in the Tawe valley; CAERNARFON: one roding over Nantgwynant on 17 June.

Max. passage and wintering counts: GWENT: six at Hafod Farm on 19 Feb.; six in Wentwood on 21 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: max. two in both winter periods; GOWER: only singles recorded; CARMARTHEN: max. two in each winter period; PEMBROKE: eight at Boncath on 4 Jan.; six at Crymych on 19 Jan.; six at Hook on 13 Dec.; CEREDIGION: up to five at Cors Caron; four at Longwood, Bettws Bledrws; BRECON: max. six flushed from Llanddew woodlands during a pheasant shoot on 31 Oct.; five flushed at Coed Bwlch-glas (Carngafallt) in Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 14 near Llanerfyl on 23 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: three in the Cynwyd area on 21 Dec.; CAERNARFON: nine ringed near Tal y Cafn during Jan. and Feb.; 15 ringed near Penrhyn Bay during Feb.; max. five on Bardsey on 11 Nov.; ANGLESEY: small numbers in both winter periods; DENBIGH: three at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, on 7 Jan.; FLINT: only three records of single birds.

Ringing: MONTGOMERY: four Woodcock that had wintered in the county were recovered in Russia and one in Hungary.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus* **GIACH FACH**

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	88	55
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Large counts (5+): CEREDIGION: up to eight flushed during rush-cutting at RSPB Ynys-hir in late Sept. and Oct.; BRECON: ringing project by Mid-Wales RG to determine numbers and wintering site fidelity of Jack Snipe on a Trecastle bog began in Feb. Three visits in February/March found 12, three and eight birds, of which seven were ringed. Three further visits in Nov.-Dec. provided counts of 11, six and seven birds; RADNOR: 15 at Rhosgoch Bog on 14 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 16 near Llanerfyl on 7 March; ANGLESEY: nine at Red Wharf Bay and six at Traeth Dulas on 15 Jan.; 14 at Red Wharf Bay on 4 Dec.

Approximate county totals where available:

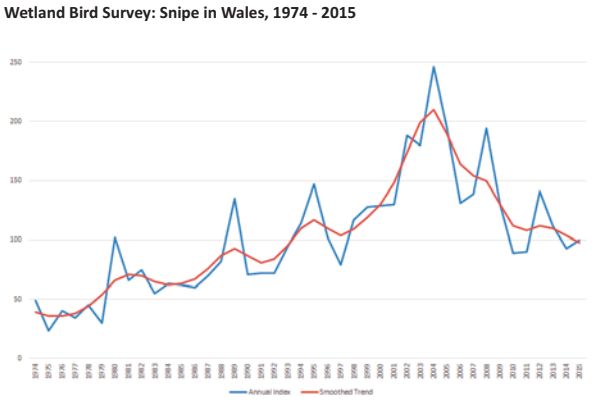
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN	3	3	2					1	3	2
GOWER	4	5	2	1				1	2	3
CARMARTHEN	1	4	3	1			1		2	4
PEMBROKE	3	2	5	1				1	4	7
BRECON	3	12	9						11+	7+
MEIRIONNYDD	1							1		3
CAERNARFON	2	3	3					5	1	4
ANGLESEY	20	1	1						3	14

Other counties: GWENT: recorded at four sites, max. three at Collister Pill on 9 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 34 sightings, probably a county record, from an ongoing study; DENBIGH: recorded from six 1-km squares, max. three at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 11 Dec.; FLINT: recorded from nine 1-km squares, all singles except two near Rhuddlan on 3 Jan.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago* **GIACH GYFFREDIN**

Widespread breeding bird, nesting in all counties but in small and declining numbers. Substantial numbers in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1183	1256
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%



27 sites with breeding evidence: GWENT: druming at Blaenserchan on 25 April; two nests found at Rhyd y Blew on 25 April; drumming over Dingestow Court on the very late date of 26 Aug.; CEREDIGION: present in the breeding season at RSPB Ynys-hir, Cors Fochno, Cors Caron, Nant y Moch and near Teifi pools; BRECON: five drumming in the upper Llia valley on 26 March; four displayed at Traeth Mawr on 4 May; four displayed near Coelbren on 31 May; singles drummed on the Epynt above Llywel on 17 April and near Crai Reservoir on 31 May; two near Grwyne Fawr Res. on 5 July could have bred nearby; MONTGOMERY: recorded near Castell Caereinion in early July; drumming male at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: at least three pairs at Ynys Crossing saltings; at least one pair probably bred in Cwm Prysor, with single birds at Crochendy Twrog (Maentwrog), Rhiw Goch (Penrhyndeudraeth), Cwm Sian Llwyd, Rhyd and Ynysfor; CAERNARFON: one above Cwm Pennant on 24 April in suitable breeding habitat; one in Cwm Caseg on 9 July; ANGLESEY: one drummed at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: confirmed breeding near World's End.

Non-breeding: having shown a sustained increase until a decade ago, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Snipe has halved since 2004/05.

Counts of 40+ not included in the table on page 85: GWENT: 99 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 4 Nov. and 62 on 21 Dec.; GOWER: 51 at Kenfig rivermouth on 19 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 40 at Newgale on 8 Feb.; 50 at Marloes Mere on 16 Nov. and 163 here on 23 Dec.; 100+ at Gann est. on 28 Dec.; 82 at Little Milford on 24 Dec.; 44 at Teifi Marshes on 26 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 47 at Cors Caron in Nov.; 150 at Ynyslas on 26 Dec.; BRECON: 50 on Cefnhirwaun on 24 Feb.; RADNOR: 120 at Rhosgoch Bog on 14 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 70 near Llanerfyl on 21 Oct.; 65 south of Dolfor on 6 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 41 at Vanner Marsh, Mawddach est., on 19 Sept.; 150 at Penllyn, Tywyn, on 3 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 150 at Mynydd Parys on 4 Nov.; 100 at Cors Bodeilio on 7 Nov.; 50 at Cors Erddreiniog on 15 Nov.; 60 at Traeth Dulas on 1 Dec.; FLINT: 80 at Gronant dunes on 9 Jan.

Monthly max. at sites with 40+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN										
Kenfig Pool	21	1	18	3		1	4	2	58	
Llanishen/Lisvane Res.	11							1		70
Peterston-super-Ely moors	68	40	35	14					19	4
GOWER										
Oxwich Marsh NNR	60	62	3	6						
CARMARTHEN										
Pembrey Burrows	4	54	47	5					16	40
Gwendraeth estuary	100	30				2	3	15	40	12
PEMBROKE										
Castlemartin Corse	65	50	200						100	438
Cleddau estuary	124	41	55					4	100	181
BRECON										
Mynydd Illtyd	77	54	37	1			4	16	31	8
Llangorse Lake	85	21	30	12			5		35	57
Y Gors		85	40	8				80	25	2
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON										
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	17		1				4	47	24	61
CAERNARFON										
Foryd	86	45	31				43	3	46	25
Traeth Lafan	11	2	10			4		18	7	80+
ANGLESEY										
RSPB Cors Ddyga							400		500	100
Red Wharf Bay	275	120								200+
DENBIGH										
RSPB Conwy	49	30	26	5		2		5	24	88
FLINT										
Flint	18	22	52							30
Connah's Quay NR	32	25	5					2	17	74

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* **LLYDANDROED GYDDFGOCH**

Rare passage migrant. On WRP list; 57 previous records.

CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Penclacwydd on 21-26 Sept., the fourth county record; PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 28 Sept.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* **LLYDANDROED LLWYD**

Uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas and in the period September – October.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	29	19
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

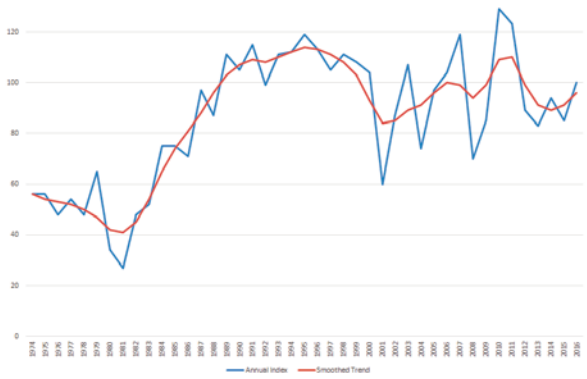
Typically, all but one of those listed below were seen in autumn, almost all falling in the second-week of Sept., coinciding with strong north-westerly winds. E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Ogmore est. on 12-15 Sept. was joined by an adult on 13th; 1CY at Lisvane Res. on 14-16 Sept.; GOWER: two at Penclawdd lower marsh and five near Loughor Bridge on 13 Sept.; three at Penclawdd lower marsh on 14 Sept.; one at Weobley triangle saltmarsh on 23 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: one at Kidwelly Quay on 14 Sept.; PEMBROKE: off Strumble Head, singles on 18 Aug., 3 and 10 Oct., with two on 19 Aug. and 11 Sept.; one off St. Justinians on 21 Sept.; one on Skomer on 16 Sept.; CEREDIGION: one at Tanybwlch on 6-7 Sept.; one past New Quay on 9 Sept.; two at RSPB Ynys-hir on 11 Sept.; singles at Aberystwyth and Mwnt on 13 Sept.; one passed Mwnt on 5 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one off Porth Ysgaden on 23 Feb.; Bardsey had its best ever year for this species: singles on 11 and 24 Sept.; two each on 2, 4 and 17 Oct. and one on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one passed Point Lynas on 29 Oct.; DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy on 14-15 Sept.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* **PIBYDD Y DORLAN**

Summer visitor that breeds in all counties except Pembroke, albeit sporadically on Anglesey and Flint. Very small numbers over-winter. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	990	1053
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Sandpiper in Wales, 1974 - 2015



Non-breeding: numbers recorded by WeBS have been stable for over 25 years, following a substantial increase in the 1980s.

Winter (singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: Chepstow on 25 Jan. and a remarkable 11 at Magor Pill on 13 Feb.; on the lower Wye on 21 Nov. and 12 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: on the Ogmore est. in Jan.-Feb. and again in Nov.-Dec.; GOWER: at Penclawdd on 4 Jan.; R.Neath saltmarsh on 21 Jan. and R.Afan on 4 Feb. and 17 Nov. with three here on 7 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Llanelli North Dock on 26 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Minwear on 2 Jan.; Carew-Creswell on 17 Dec.; the Gann est. on 19 Dec.; two in the Cleddau est. in Nov. and Dec.; CEREDIGION: up to two on the Dyfi est. in the first winter period, usually near Glandyfi or RSPB Ynys-hir, with one here in the second period; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren on 30 Nov.; Dyfi Junction on 4 Dec. (also in MEIRIONNYDD); CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: on R.Conwy at Tal-y-cafn on 8 Jan., 16 Feb. and 28 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Church Island on 28 Nov.; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 30 Nov.; FLINT: two near Rhyl on 24 and 27 Feb., 1-2 at Connah's Quay NR during Oct.-Dec.

Spring passage max. counts: GWENT: 11 at Undy foreshore in April; seven at Gobion on 22 April; E.GLAMORGAN: six at Kenfig Pool in April; CARMARTHEN: five at Cefn Padrig on 14 April; PEMBROKE: 21 at Carew Mill on 20 April; CEREDIGION: six at Llanrhystud on 23 April; MEIRIONNYDD: four on R.Dwyryd in April; ANGLESEY: five at Cemlyn on 24 and 30 April; FLINT: seven at Connah's Quay NR on 26 April.

Post-breeding and return passage max. counts: GWENT: 10 at Llanwenarth on 29 June; seven at Llandegfedd Res. in July; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 at the Ogmore est. and seven at Bendrick Rock-Barry in July; GOWER: 11 at Brunel Dock on 22 July; 16 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 13 Aug.; PEMBROKE: seven at Radford Pill on 28 July; six at Bosherston on 4 Aug. and at Picton Pt on 6 Aug.; seven at Lawrenny on 8 Oct.; eight in the Cleddau est. in Oct.; CEREDIGION: 12 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 3 July; six at Aberystwyth on 6 Aug.; BRECON: six by Brynich Aquaduct on the R.Usk in early July; MEIRIONNYDD: four on R.Dwyryd on 22 Aug.; CAERNARFON: nine at Foryd on 22 July; nine at Aber Ogwen on 25 July; nine on Bardsey on 14 July and 7 Aug.; ANGLESEY: seven at Malltraeth on 11 July; six at Cemlyn on 26 July; DENBIGH: seven near Rhuthun on 4 July.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* **PIBYDD GWYRDD**

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	121	156
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

First winter period (singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: Llangybi Walks on 3 Jan.; between Llanllowell and Newbridge in Jan., increasing to two in Feb. and four on 13 March; E.GLAMORGAN: Pwll Waun Cynon on 2 Jan.; Abercwmboi Lake on 21 Jan. and 25 Feb.; Ogmore est. on 9 March; Llanilid on 19 March; Cardiff Bay Barrage on 27 March; GOWER: two in the Llanrhidian/Weobley area on 3 Jan. with singles here on 6 and 21 Jan.; Crofty on 3 Jan. and 24 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: Pentrepoeth-Idole, on 20 Jan.; Dryslwyn on 24 Feb. and three here on 28 March; PEMBROKE: two at Sealyham; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron in Jan. and March; five at RSPB Ynys-hir on 16 March; BRECON: Camlais Brook (Mynydd Illtyd) on 1 and 18 Jan., and 18 March; Llangorse Lake on 5 and 28 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren to 23 April, max. four on 19 March; MEIRIONNYDD: Ynys Crossing saltings on 1 and 3 Jan.; Dwyryd est. on 29 Jan. and 9 March; ANGLESEY: 1-3 at Llanfachraeth; DENBIGH: five near Llandyrnog and nine in a flooded field near Denbigh on 18 Jan.; FLINT: one at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 7 and 15 Jan.

Monthly max. counts from R.Ely, E.GLAMORGAN

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Pendoylan/Peterston	6	8	4					7	9	7	5	1

Return passage/second winter period (singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: up to six at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 12-13 Aug.; four at Gobion on 24 Aug., three here on 25 Oct. and four on 16 Dec.; three along a mile of R.Usk to The Bryn on 23 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: three at E. Aberthaw Quarry pool on 23 July; four on Sker Pool on 23 Aug.; Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 4 Nov.; Merthyr Mawr on 13 Nov. and 4 Dec.; R.Ely at Fairwater on 26 Dec.; GOWER: five at Staffal Haegr on 14 July, seven here on 8 Aug. and six on 22nd; six at Llanrhidian marsh on 1 Nov. and one here on 9 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: five at Kidwelly Marsh on 22 Aug.; White Bridge, Carmarthen, on 12 Nov.; Llanedi on 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE: one at Sealyham; CEREDIGION: up to three on the Dyfi est.; five at Cors Caron on 16 July and one in Nov. and Dec.; BRECON: Llangorse Lake on 11 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: Dolydd Hafren from 6 Aug.; MONTGOMERY/MEIRIONNYDD: three at Dyfi Junction on on 4 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: Ynys Crossing saltings on 5 and 9 Dec.; Dwyryd est. on 19 Nov. and 30 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 3 and 9 Dec with two here on 18th; ANGLESEY: four on the Alaw est. on 13 Aug.; one at Cors Erddreiniog on 15 Nov.; DENBIGH: one near Lleweni Hall-Bodfari on 6 Nov. and 4 Dec.; FLINT: one at Queensferry on 7 Dec.

LESSER YELLOWLEGS *Tringa flavipes* **MELYNGOES BACH**

Vagrant from North America, on BBRC list. 20 previous records.

All singles: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR on 3 Sept., the first county record; GOWER: Llanrhidian/Staffal Haegr from 20 Sept. to 3 Nov. (also in Carmarthen); CARMARTHEN: Laugharne on 7-9 April (though recorded as 7 April only by BBRC); Penclacwydd on 20 Sept., subsequently moved to Gower.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus* **PIBYDD COESGOCH**

Scarce and declining breeding species, confined chiefly to salt-marshes but with a few pairs inland. Abundant wintering population. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2869	3097
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	15%

Breeding confirmed at four sites, probable at six and possible at a further three: GWENT: fledgling at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 12 May; recently-hatched chick and another with few-day-old chick on 20 May; fledglings noted again on 25 May and 16 June; 1CY at Llandegfedd Res. on 18 July; GOWER: probably bred at Staffal Haegr where two pairs were seen mating on 19 April; also two at Crymlyn Burrows on 6 June; CEREDIGION: 34 pairs bred at RSPB Ynys-hir; probably bred at Cors Caron, Aberleri, Glandwr and elsewhere on the edge of Cors Fochno; MONTGOMERY: present near Dovey Junction on 18 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 pairs on territory at Ynys Crossing saltings on 25 March but all flooded out by high tides on 31 March; two pairs here in mid-May, still present and alarming on 17 June indicating chicks; three pairs alarming at Mochras on 27 May with two pairs here on 25 June; territorial pair on the saltings at Ynys on 25 June; CAERNARFON: pair with two, possibly three, one-third grown chicks at Morfa Madryn on 28 May.

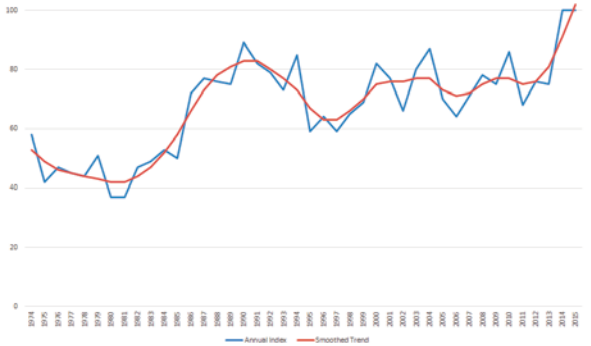
Monthly max. at sites holding 300+ birds at least once during the year:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Peterstone Wentlooge	350	200	257	120		44	70	190	210	251	411	569
Ebbwmouth roost	78	180	300	200			178	75	190	170	200	130
E.GLAMORGAN												
Rhymney estuary	1000	800	500	200	1			210	500			
GOWER												
Penclawdd/Dalton's Pt	55	53	47	35				121	382	130	86	16
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	12	25	368	323		13	264	297	400	391	230	451
Gwendraeth estuary	50		250	127			250	250	350	300	250	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	606	574	639						332	350	607	638
CEREDIGION												
Dyfi estuary	236	138	220	96	68	62	50	86	66	129	296	303
CAERNARFON												
Foryd	122	110	120	40	1	1	60	121	160	220	490	332
Traeth Lafan	1051	978	715	61	4		26	230	250	1173	1255	791
DENBIGH												
RSPB Conwy & lower estuary	778	437	512	560	1		704	1218	981	582	548	743
FLINT												
Point of Ayr	150	100	200	40			120		400	850	300	300
Flint	100	160	300	750			200	85	15		2500	65
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	100	200	500	200			300	700	600	2000	400	1000
Connah's Quay NR							1600	5000	4800			

In contrast to its declining breeding status, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has reached an all-time high.

Counts of 300+ not included in the table on page 88: CARMARTHEN: 326 at the Lliedi river mouth on 28 Aug.; FLINT: 350 at Talacre gas terminal on 11 Feb.; 1200 at White Sands on 12 March.

Wetland Bird Survey: Redshank in Wales, 1974 - 2015



WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* **PIBYDD Y GRAEAN**

Scarce passage migrant recorded in every county, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	30	90
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records (single birds unless otherwise stated): GWENT: at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 22-25 July, 29-31 July, 25-26 Aug., possibly the same bird from 31 Aug. to 1 Sept., two here on 2 Sept. and one again on 3rd-4th; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Burrows on 13 May; Penclacwydd on 12 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 5-8 May and 4 Aug.; Skokholm on 17-20 Aug.; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir on 5 May; Cors Caron on 28 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Madryn on 6 May; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 5-9 May, 1-6 July and 23 Aug.; Malltraeth village and Cob on 31 Aug. and probably the same bird at RSPB Cors Ddyga from 19 Sept. to 8 Nov. and at Pont Marquis on 27 Nov.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 5 May; FLINT: six records from five 1-km squares, the first at Rhydymwyn on 13 July and the last at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 11 Oct.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* **PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG**

Uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties chiefly in autumn. Small numbers over-winter on the Dee, Burry and Cleddau estuaries. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	447	478
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

A fairly typical spread of records, but the size of wintering flocks in Wales is slowly falling, as elsewhere, with numbers lower than in the 1970s.

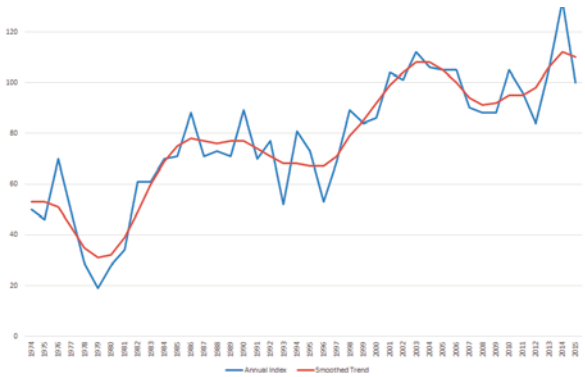
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	Newport Wetlands Reserve	3	4	3	3	1		1	1	2	3	2	2
CARMARTHEN		2	3	4					4	3	2	2	1
PEMBROKE			1	1		1				1		2	
CEREDIGION		1	1	1							1+	1+	1
BRECON										1			
MEIRIONNYDD						2			3				
CAERNARFON			1	1					2		2	1	1
ANGLESEY		1								1			
DENBIGH									1				
FLINT	Connah's Quay NR	10			1			2+	14		16	12	

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* **PIBYDD COESWERDD**

Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn, uncommon inland. Small numbers over-winter. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	984	999
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Wetland Bird Survey: Greenshank in Wales, 1974 - 2015



The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a long-term increase since the 1970s.

DENBIGH: all records from RSPB Conwy, from 20 April to 5 May and 14 July to 6 Nov. (max four on 5 Nov.).

Monthly max. at sites holding 15+ at least once during the year, or 8+ in winter:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT												
Newport Wetlands Reserve	3	4	4	4	2	1	3	9	20	8	8	4
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd	20	6	7	6	2	2	46	81	76	46	12	16
Pwll	9		2	2				12	10	5	1	4
Gwendraeth estuary	18	15	17	7	2		19	28	54	42	26	18
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	18	17	16						35	39	17	32
CAERNARFON												
Morfa Madryn	3	1	2					2	2	15	5	3
Bangor harbour	9	5		1				1		1	1	1
Aber Ogwen	8	3				2	6	13	8	13	6	8
Foryd	9	9	8	3	2		9	13	18	13	11	10
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary	9			6	1		5	16	11	8		7
FLINT												
Connah's Quay NR		9						14		20		

Approximate monthly totals (including site counts above):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT	3	4	4	6	2	2	5	13	22	9	8	4
E.GLAMORGAN				11	1			8	2	1		
GOWER	4+	6+		3+	7+	19+		9				
CARMARTHEN	47	21	26	20	4	2	65	121	142	93	39	38
BRECON				1	2			1				
MONTGOMERY					1							
MEIRIONNYDD	2	1	5	3	2	1		3	6	1	2	6
CAERNARFON	29	18	11	8	2	3	20	45	35	43	27	23
ANGLESEY	14	7	7	9	4	0	9	32	20	12	4	11

Other counts of 10+ birds: PEMBROKE: 33 at Radford Pill on 8 March.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* **GWYLAN GOESDDU**

Declining breeder in coastal areas from Gower to Caernarfonshire, except Meirionnydd (-35% during 1986-2015). Large numbers occur offshore on passage. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	385	460
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding records: another year of poor productivity at many colonies where it is monitored, which only worsens the situation for a seabird declining rapidly in Wales. There are rays of hope, however, from St Margaret's, Pembrokeshire, and the Great and Little Ormes, Caernarfonshire, where colony sizes increased.

Site/county	AON	Comparison AON (year)
PEMBROKE		
Elegug Stacks	3	5 (2016)
St. Margaret's island	256	230 (2016)
Ramsey	100	102 (2016)
Skomer	1336	1477 (2016)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	125	122 (2016)
Great Orme	665	602 (2016)
Little Orme	327	183 (2016)
ANGLESEY		
North/South Stack	5	13 (2016)
Ynys Moelfre	70	
Puffin Island	522	

Other breeding information: GOWER: bred at Mumbles Pier but no nest counts; PEMBROKE: breeding success at three study plots on Skomer was poor (0.25 young/nest, *cf.* 0.67 in 2016); CEREDIGION: no nest counts at New Quay, but considered a poor breeding season with 50% of nests unoccupied on 7 July; CAERNARFON: productivity on Bardsey was just 0.11 young/nest, 79.2% below the ten-year mean; predation by Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls is thought to have been a major factor.

Max. counts from coastal watchpoints:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Mumbles Pier/Head		150	237	185	303	400	393	300	359	160	2	11
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	160	34	57	89	314	127	1011	2758	11,362	3664	531	58
ANGLESEY												
Point Lynas		250							3600	3000		
Cemlyn								5500				70

Other notable records: GWENT: 35 at Porton on 19 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 56 at Irongate Pt and 23 at Sker Pt on 13 May; 22 at Lavernock Pt on 30 May; GOWER: 100 at Port Eynon on 29 July, 250 here on 7 Aug. and 400 on 19 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*500 in a feeding frenzy at Cefn Sidan on 22 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 127 off Aberystwyth on 23 Feb.; exceptional numbers passed Mwnt on 11 Sept. *c.*9000 observed when the wind veered to the north-west; 400 at Teifi est. on 24 Aug.; 600 at Ynyslas on 20 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 37 at Tonfanau sands on 29 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 200 passed Rhos Point on 11 Sept. and 800 on 14th; 900 in a tight flock from Morfa Abererch on 26 Aug.; 38 on the Dwyfor est. on 29 July; ANGLESEY: 165+ at Moelfre on 5 July; 4500 passed Cemlyn on 26 Aug.; 2600 passed Point Lynas on 29 Oct.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini* **GWYLAN SABINE**

Uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	19	12
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: GWENT: 1CY up-channel past Goldcliff Lagoons in the Severn est. on 13 Sept., it flew down-channel later the same day; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Porthcawl and two at Southerndown on 13 Sept.; 1CY at Sker on 14 Sept.; GOWER: probable first-summer off Port Eynon Pt on 3 Aug.; PEMBROKE: a very good year for this species at Strumble Head with 52 recorded, including 14 adults, max. day count was 15 on 11 Sept.; 1CY off Skomer on 15-16 Sept.; two adults off Skokholm on 12 Sept., and 1CY singles here on 13, 16 and 18 Sept. and 21 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 1CY off Mwnt on 13 Sept.; 1CY at Llanrhystud from 19-21 Sept.; 1CY off Mwnt on 5 Oct.

CAERNARFON: Bardsey had its best year for this species, summarised as follows:

23 Aug	1 Sep	11 Sep	13 Sep	14 Sep	24 Sep	25 Sep	5 Oct	6 Oct	22 Oct	23 Oct	29 Oct	7 Nov
1CY	1CY	2 adult 3x 1CY	5x 1CY	6x 1CY	2x 1CY	2x 1CY	1CY	2x 1CY	1 adult	2x 1CY	3x 1CY	1CY

Other CAERNARFON: one passed the Little Orme on 9 Sept.; 1CY singles passed Rhos Point on 11 and 16 Sept. and two here on 15th; ANGLESEY: Point Lynas had a run of records through Sept., two on 9th, 11 on 15th, two on 16th, one on 19th, two on 26th and one on 12 Nov.; one passed Cemlyn on 13 Sept.; FLINT: 1CY at Point of Ayr on 12 Sept.

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* **GWYLAN BONAPARTE**

Rare vagrant, on BBRC list. 19 previous records.

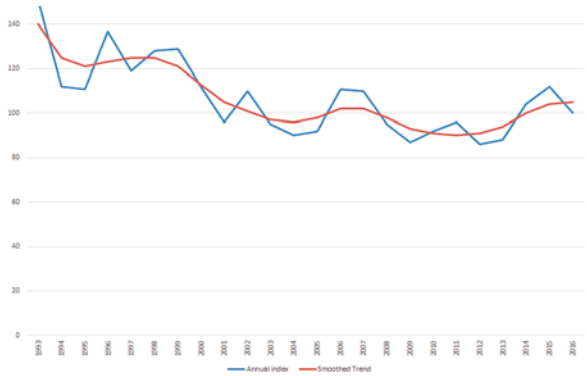
BRECON: adult at Llangorse Lake on 7 April was the first county record.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* **GWYLAN BENDDU**

Locally common breeding resident, scarce only in south and southeast Wales during the summer months. A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	7162	6175
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	34%

Wetland Bird Survey: Black-headed Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Breeding: CARMARTHEN: 269 pairs bred at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: bred at Gorsgoch; BRECON: Brechfa Pool had its best breeding season for some years: 50-55 pairs attempted to breed and at least 55 juveniles were around the breeding islands in July; CAERNARFON: five nests at Morfa Madryn, with many other birds in attendance (max. 125 on 28 May) giving hope that it may expand in future; ANGLESEY: *c.*275 pairs bred at Cemlyn, a significant decrease from 2016 and no young fledged owing to heavy predation; 38 nests at RSPB Valley Wetlands; 70 nests on The Skerries; DENBIGH: one territory occupied near Llyn Aled, an area where there were at least three small active colonies 20 years ago; FLINT: 171 AON at Shotton Steelworks from which 284 chicks reached fledging stage (1.66 young/nest).

Non-breeding: although there has been a marginal increase in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Black-headed Gull in recent years, the long-term trend remains down.

Monthly max. counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	1200	600	1000	150	3	1	646	540	450	66	350	610
GOWER												
Blackpill	1468	1327	2292	51	125	175	898	1200	481	538	1397	1397
Upper Loughor estuary	293	187	82	375	120	35	491	231	1220	360	140	167
Penclawdd	92	194	124	278	326	90	260	234	1000	990	400	255
Llanrhidian	391	46	110	273	35	776	1620	256	1000	740	3	
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	818	883	150						1252	992	1429	219
Nevern estuary	1000	1400	65						175	165	540	215
Llys y fran Res.	500	120	1							3	1500	500
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	610	1600	530	11				3	5	160	55	1100
MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON												
Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary	80	185	107						1051	480	395	133
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	27	200	17	11	320	200	450	470	1100	2500	10	30
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	100	100	40	23	36	240	120	3000	1000	2000	200	300

Other large counts (1000+): GWENT: 1762 at Undy on 14 Aug.; 1352 at Collister Pill on 9 Sep.; 1550 at St Brides Wentlooge on 11 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Teifi est. on 2 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1500 at Ynys on 31 July equals the record non-colony count from 2016; CAERNARFON: max. count 1545 from Bardsey on 29 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 2000 on the Alaw est. on 29 Jan.; DENBIGH: 1000 at Horton's Nose on 9 Feb.; 1266 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 18 Dec.; FLINT: 1000 at Rhyl promenade on 5 Feb.

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus* **GWYLAN FECHAN**

Passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast, scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	127	154
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Cardiff Bay from 18 March to 1 April; St Athan on 18 March; Kenfig NNR on 19 May; GOWER: Staffal Haegr on 6 April; 2CY at Llanrhidian Marsh on 12 April; 1CY at Dalton's Pt on 21 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 14 birds at Strumble Head (ten 1CY and four 2CY birds) between 11 Sept. and 12 Nov., max. day counts four on 17 Oct. and five on 22nd; Gann est. on 4 Feb.; two adults and a 2CY off Skokholm on 25 Oct., 2CY here on 26th and 1CY on 5 Nov.; CEREDIGION: adult and 2CY at RSPB Ynys-hir on 23 Feb.; 2CY at Borth on 28 Feb.; Llanrhystud on 5-6 April; five off Mwnt on 4 Aug. and one here on 13 Sept.; 2CY at Llanrhystud on 15-16 Sept. and 7 Oct., and two here on 21 Oct.; 1CY at Tanybwlch on 22 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: adult at Llyn Bach on 21 Feb. and on the Glaslyn est. on 23rd; adult at Porthmadog on 21 April; 2CY at Porthmadog on 9 May; 2CY on Glaslyn Marshes on 17-18 June; CAERNARFON: records from Tremadog Bay between 3 Feb. and 18 June, max. counts four off Criccieth on 3 Feb. and eight on

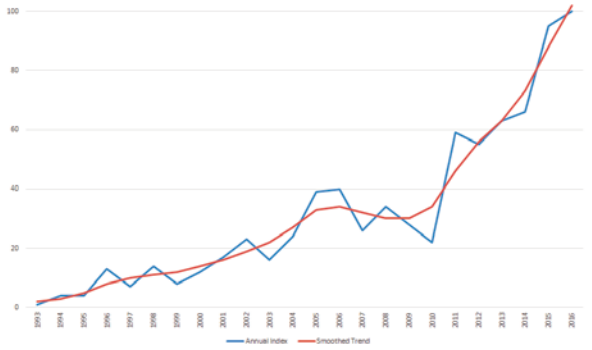
26th; four at Rhos Point on 14 Jan., three on 24 April and singles on 3 and 14 Sept.; Porth Colmon on 29 April; adult on Bardsey on 23 Jan. and in autumn, daily records of two, one, three and one respectively from 13-16 Sept., singles on eight dates in Oct., including two on 23rd; ANGLESEY: two passed Point Lynas on 13 Jan.; Cemlyn on 28 April, 11 and 24 May, 28 Aug. and two on 9 Sept. (presumed same as off Bull Bay that day) and one on 2 Nov.; one passed Point Lynas on 29 Aug., four on 9 Sept., two on 15 Sept., five on 6 Oct. and one on 29th; off Soldier's Pt on 23 Oct.; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24 March; Connah's Quay NR on 23 April, and on 1, 15 and 17 May.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* **GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR**

Increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties at all times of the year. Small numbers breed (eight pairs in four counties in 2016). Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	628	657
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Mediterranean Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Breeding: ANGLESEY: 19 at Cemlyn lagoon on 26 April included at least five pairs, plus large numbers of 2CY birds, but none was seen after this date. Adults were seen on four days in July and a fresh juvenile on 29 July. A 1CY was also seen at Llanddwyn Island on 6 July.

Non-breeding: the exponential growth in the Wetland Bird Survey index seems unlimited, with small numbers wintering in most coastal counties and late summer dispersal bringing greater numbers to some places.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Blackpill	16	47	7	2	3	26	113	260	157	131	34	35
Bracelet Bay	28	26	6			61	93	163	210	106	43	36
CARMARTHEN												
Penclacwydd		1	1	7	6	80	18	2				
Pwll				1		50	236*	212	220	56		
PEMBROKE												
Skokholm							6	1	9+	191+	100+	
Skomer							1		3	42+	21+	
CEREDIGION												
Aberystwyth						2	22	240	108	44		
Aberaeron							50	74	147			
ANGLESEY												
Alaw estuary	15+						18	45				

*county record

Other counts of 30+ birds: CARMARTHEN: 124 at Burry Port on 10 July; 131 at Pembrey Harbour on 12 July and 152 here on 22nd; PEMBROKE: 38 in Angle Harbour on 17 Aug.; 191 off Skokholm on 27 Oct., 175 on 28th and 100 on 5 Nov.; 42 off Skomer on 29 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 40 at Mwnt on 29 Aug.; CAERNARFON: *c*.50 around Aberdaron on 21 Dec.; counts from Bardsey in Oct. included between 37 and 50 on four dates and at least 170 on 29th (new county record); ANGLESEY: 51 off RSPB South Stack on 19 Sept.

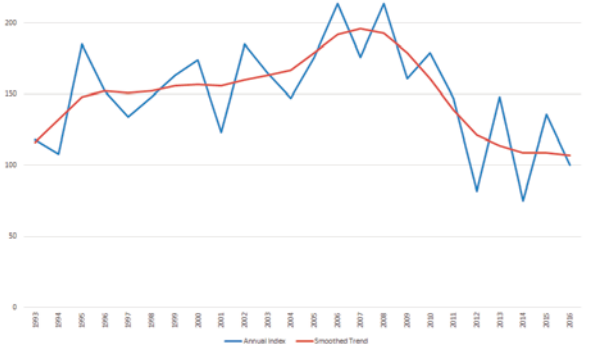
Hybrid: ANGLESEY: one at Point Lynas on 9 Dec. showed features of a hybrid with a Black-headed Gull.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* **GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD**

Numerous and widespread winter visitor with small numbers recorded on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1392	1283
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Common Gulls have become less common in the current decade, with the Wetland Bird Survey trend index reaching a new low.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 250 or more at least once:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GOWER												
Blackpill	760	590	364	144	15	40	116	171	100	330	785	785
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt	375	572	162	29			6	34				78
Gwendraeth estuary	230		1000									350
CEREDIGION												
Borth		620										760
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3	6	24		9		251	180	52	200	55	2
DENBIGH												
Lleweni Hall, Bodfari		312	354									

Other counts of 250+ birds: GWENT: 540 at Magor Marsh in Feb.; GOWER: 300 at Wernffrwd on 16 Jan. and 16 Nov.; 250 at Llanrhidian on 26 June and 400 here on 22 Aug.; 367 at Dalton's Pt on 7 Sept.; 257 at Pwll-y-froga on 6 Aug.; 419 at Salthouse Pill on 8 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 312 at Beddmanarch Bay on 25 Jan.; DENBIGH: 276 near Towyn on 26 Nov.; FLINT: 1000 at Gronant dunes on 9 Jan.; 500 at Rhuddlan on 1 April; 200+ near Hendre, on 12 Dec.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis* **GWYLAN FODRWYBIG**

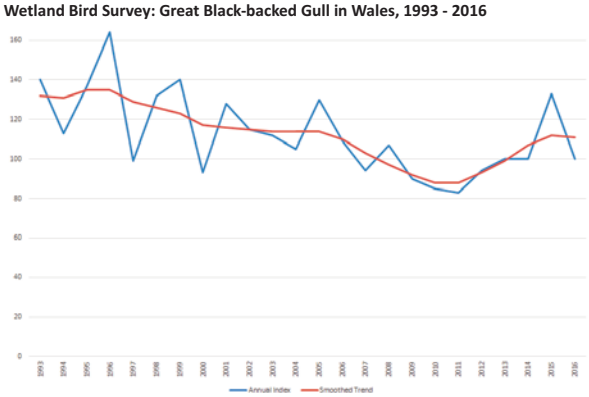
Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas, chiefly from mid-February to the end of May. On WRP list; 238+ previous records.

PEMBROKE: adult at Llys-y-fran Res. from December 2016 to 16 Feb., returning from 3 Dec. to the year-end for its fifth winter; 2CY on the Gann est. from 28 Feb. to 12 March; CEREDIGION: adult at Aberystwyth on 23 March, presumed same at Ynyslas on 22 July; also 2CY at Ynyslas on 3-31 May.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* **GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF**

Common and widespread in coastal areas in winter, widely distributed breeding bird along rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3187	3155
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	17%



Breeding: GWENT: min. 10 AON on Denny Island on 10 June; pair with three chicks at Port of Newport on 19 June is first confirmed mainland breeding record in the county; E.GLAMORGAN: one AON on Flat Holm; GOWER: two pairs at Briton Ferry; PEMBROKE: five AON on Caldey (*cf.* eight in 2016); four AON along Castlemartin peninsula (*cf.* two in 2016); 10 AON on Stack Rock in Milford Haven was significantly lower than 27 in 2000 when last counted; three AON on Cerrig Gwylan off Ynys Barry (*cf.* five in 1999 when last counted); 93 AON on Skokholm was similar to 2016, but productivity higher at 1.54 fledged young/pair from sample 26 monitored nests (*cf.* 1.38 in 2016); 120 AON on Skomer was an increase on 108 in 2016; MEIRIONNYDD: possible breeding on the Dwyryd est. at Llandecwyn and at Caerdeon, Mawddach est.; CAERNARFON: pair hatched young at Llyn Elsi; two pairs at Porth Llanllawen in June; five pairs bred on Bardsey, one more than last year, but productivity was very low (0.20 young/pair); 35 nest platforms and 24 large juvs on Ynys Gwylan Fawr; 18 adults but no nest platforms visible on Ynys Gwylan Bach (total of 35 pairs is a 32.5% decrease on the 2008-2016 mean, and productivity of 0.68 young/pair on Ynys Gwylan Fawr is 20% below the 2008-2016 mean; ANGLESEY: five pairs bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands; 24 nests on The Skerries; DENBIGH: birds in suitable habitat at Llyn Brenig; FLINT: breeding confirmed near Prestatyn.

Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey index increased in 2015/16, will this prove to be a blip in a long, slow decline?

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 30 or more at least once:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	29	76						10				17
GOWER												
Blackpill	16	18	35	12	23	32	23	16	15	13	16	11
PEMBROKE												
Blucks Pool/Freshwater West	6		8						106	14		32
Gann estuary	25							67	165			
Skokholm (roost counts)			48	58				60	183	141		
PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION												
Teifi estuary	42								38	2	12	3
CAERNARFON												
Traeth Lafan	3	2	2	5	2	5	2	12	29	31	36	4
Rhos Point	2	5	1						20	3	35	
Bardsey	40	11	20	18	19	16	17	26	22	20	8	28
FLINT												
Gronant	57	24	24	6	6	4	13	8		53	59	27

Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey index increased in 2015/16, will this prove to be a blip in a long, slow decline?

Counts of 30+ not included in the table on page 96: PEMBROKE: 33 in the Cleddau est. in March; 75 at Marloes Mere on 6 May; 60 at Dale Airfield on 23 Sept.; 30 at Gupton on 16 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 31 at Tanybwlch on 22 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 80 at Penmon Pt on 8 July; 33 passed Point Lynas on 10 Nov.; DENBIGH: 52 at Kinmel Bay on 24 Feb.; FLINT: 45 near Rhyl on 12 Sept.; 63 at Point of Ayr on 8 Oct.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* **GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD**

Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in winter but occasionally in summer.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	64	217
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

An estimated 35 individuals is above the annual average, the majority during Jan.-March, though records in East Glamorgan and Gower (perhaps the same bird) and on Anglesey in May are notable. All single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY at

Glaucous Gull (Jeff Slocombe)

Cardiff Bay from 31 Dec. 2016. to 21 May, also seen on the Taff and Cosmeston Lakes CP.; another 2CY joined it at Cardiff Bay from 23 Feb. to at least 11 March; 4CY or adult at Aberthaw on 7 May; 1CY at Cardiff Bay on 30 Dec.; GOWER: Swansea on 3 March; Rhossili Bay on 4 March; Llangennith on 4 March; Port Eynon on 9 May; PEMBROKE: Deer Park on 17 Jan.; Fishguard Harbour on 14-27 Jan. (two here on 17th) and various dates to 2 April; Nevern est. on 8 Feb.; 2CY at Goodwick on 10 Feb.; 2CY at St. Ishmaels on 12 March; 2CY at the Gann est. on 27 Oct. and 30 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 2CY at Aberystwyth from 21 Jan. to 2 Feb.; 2CY at Tre'r Ddol on 22 Jan. and possibly the same on 21-22 Feb.; 2CY at RSPB Ynys-hir and Ynyslas on 9 and 26 Feb.; 2CY at New Quay on 26 Feb.; Llanina on 12 March; Aberaeron on 25 March; CAERNARFON: 2CY at Aber Ogwen on 31 March; 2CY at Bardsey on 8 and 31 March, and 22 April; ANGLESEY: 2CY around Holyhead Bay and Harbour from 21 Jan. to 20 March; another, possibly same, in the Old Harbour on 31 May; 2CY at Mynydd Bodafon on 5 April; DENBIGH: Horton's Nose on 14 Jan.; Gresford Flash on 29 Jan.; at Old Colwyn on 25 Feb.; RSPB Conwy on 25 Oct.; at Llanddulas on 23-30 Dec. (remaining through most of 2018).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* **GWYLAN YR ARCTIG**

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, formerly rare.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	80	73
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

An estimated 32 individuals is a typical showing, the majority during Feb.-April. All single 1CY birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: 2CY at Duffryn on 21 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY at Cosmeston Lakes CP. and then in the gull roost at Cardiff Bay on 10 Feb.; 2CY in Bridgend on 18-19 Feb.; 3CY at Cardiff Bay on 22-23 March and then at Cosmeston Lakes CP. on 24 and 27 March; adult at Roath Park (Cardiff) on 10 April; GOWER: Burry Holm on 8-10 Feb.; Broughton Burrows on 8 Feb.; immature at Clase Primary School on 5 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Wiseman's Bridge on 24 Jan.; adult at Newgale on 4 Feb.; two at Llys y fran Res. on 16 Feb.; Gann est. on 19 Feb. and 13 March; Nevern est. on 2 and 10 April; West Angle on 20 Nov.; Carew Castle on 21 Nov.; Llys y fran Res. on 30 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 2-3 Jan. and 3-5 April; CEREDIGION: adult near Aberaeron on 2 Jan.; 3CY at Llanon on 4 April; 2CY at Aberystwyth on 13-14 April; CAERNARFON: off the Great Orme on 5 March; off Morfa Nefyn and Nefyn between 7-19 March and at Afonwen on 19 March; adult on Bardsey on 18 April; Morfa Nefyn on 9 Oct.; on Bardsey in Dec.; ANGLESEY: two 2CY at Mynydd Bodafon on 5-9 April, one until 24th; DENBIGH: Towyn on 14 Jan.; RSPB Conwy on 10 March; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 16 Dec. and at Connah's Quay NR on 17th.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* **GWYLAN Y PENWAIG**

Common resident in coastal areas, now much reduced. Frequent in many inland areas, breeding on several freshwater sites. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	11104	9952
% of BirdTrack lists	60%	55%

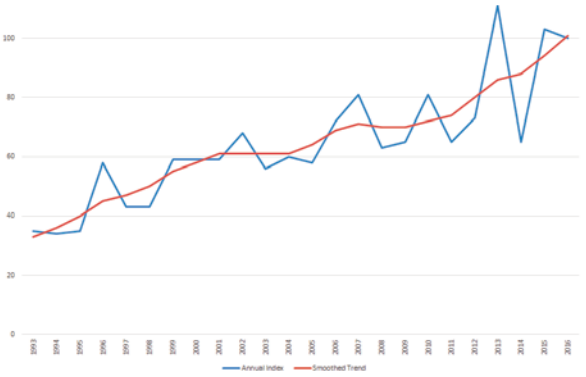
Breeding surveys indicate variable fortunes, with some regularly-counted sites up on last year but others lower, and the same is true of sites in Pembrokeshire that have not been counted for a decade or more. The counts in Gwent result from a comprehensive survey of *Larus* gulls, most in urban settings around Newport, Trethomas, the heads of the valleys, Chepstow and Monmouth. The roof-nesting populations in other counties, with a few exceptions, remain largely unknown.

Breeding records not included in the table on page 99: MEIRIONNYDD: 61 birds on Craig yr Aderyn on 7 Aug. but no nest counts; CAERNARFON: roof nesting noted in Llandudno and at Conwy Marina; *c.*200 nests on old Friction Dynamics building, Caernarfon; one pair nested at Morfa Madryn; 1-2 nests at Uwchmynydd, Porth Meudwy, Porth Llanllawen and the Great Orme; 36 AON at Llyn Elsi on 22 May; ANGLESEY: one nest at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: *c.*48 AON at Llanddulas Quarry.

Site/county	AON	Comparison AON (year)
GWENT	360	
E.GLAMORGAN		
Cardiff rooftops	10	
Flat Holm	319	315 (2016)
GOWER	c.50	
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	1438	1699 (2016)
St. Margaret's island	236	highest in recent years
Barafundle to Giltar Pt	202	214 (2006)
Castlemartin peninsula	197	225 (2016)
Thorn island	183	114 (1999)
Stack Rocks (St.Bride's Bay)	158	192 (2001)
Cerrig Gwylan	66	76 (1999)
Newport Bay	75	104 (2001)
Skokholm	302	322 (2016)
Skomer	297	321 (2016)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	377	331 (2016) – 0.64 young/pair
Ynys Gwylan Fawr	108	76 (2016) – 0.84 young/pair
Ynys Gwylan Bach	37	37 (2016) – viewed from boat
ANGLESEY		
North/South Stack	338	425 (2016)
Skerries	529	

Non-breeding: in contrast to its declining status as a breeding bird and a lower number of registrations on BirdTrack, the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new high in 2016/17, having doubled since the mid-1990s.

Wetland Bird Survey: Herring Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Large counts (1000+) not included in the table on page 100: E.GLAMORGAN: third-calendar-year Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull hybrid at Cosmeston Lakes CP. on 4 March; GOWER: *c.*1400 at Tir John tip on 20 Jan.; 1000 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 10 Sept.; *c.*1000 at R.Neath est./Crymlyn Burrows on 22 Oct.; a leucistic bird at Berthlwyd on 3 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 450 at Llanon on 23 July; 700 at Teifi est. on 10 Sept.; DENBIGH: 2945 at Kinmel Bay on 24 Feb.; 1240 south of Towyn on 30 Dec.; FLINT: *c.*5800 around Point of Ayr on 15 Jan.; 1200 at Talacre on 22 May; 1200 at Gronant dunes on 17 July; 1544 near Rhyl on 12 Sept.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 1000 or more at least once:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GOWER												
Whiteford	4	6	5	344	3630	2190	700	582	1450	250	148	80
Blackpill	2855	699	1135	1275	1499	1405	748	1609	952	1361	1260	1260
Wernffrwd	18	53	30	28	55	300	440	2566	1739	827	212	
Llanrhidian	5	10	3	99	548	642	694	1119	1033	268	24	
Weobley	260	61		67	305	183	470	960	1508	366	260	
CARMARTHEN												
Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point	40	1400				100	60					840
PEMBROKE												
Llys y fran Res.	50	400	20									1000
BRECON												
Pontsticill Res.	3400								1100		1330	2105
DENBIGH												
Conwy estuary	126	203	376	211	177	154	169	438	190	207	1023	889
FLINT												
Point of Ayr/Talacre	3500	200		1000	30	1000	1200		8000	167	40	10

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* **GWYLAN CASPIA**

Rare vagrant; on WRP list. Two previous records.

Both 2CY birds: PEMBROKE: at Nevern est. (Newport) on 12 July, same as Ceredigion; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 19-28 March had been colour-ringed at Gräbendorfer See, Germany, close to the Polish border; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 13 May.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis* **GWYLAN GOESFELEN**

Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, especially East Glamorgan and Gower.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	61	72
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The records illustrate how many Yellow-legged Gulls winter in south Wales, yet they remain relatively scarce in the north. All single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: near adult/adult at Llandegfedd Res. on 16 Sept.; sub-adult intermittently at the Riverfront, Newport on 19 Feb., also here in July and on 31 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Caerphilly Castle moat on 23 March, from 27 July to 24 Aug. and again from 27 Nov. to 28 Dec.; adults at Bute Park and Blackweir (Cardiff) on 20 Jan., 8 March and 4-6 Nov.; Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 11 Nov. and 31 Dec.; 3CY at Roath Park Lake on 31 Dec.; others shown in table below.

Number of individuals (mostly adults) recorded from most frequently reported sites in E.GLAMORGAN:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cardiff Bay	12	4	2	3	1	1	1		1		2	7
Cosmeston Lakes CP		1	2				1					1
Ogmore est.	1	3	1									

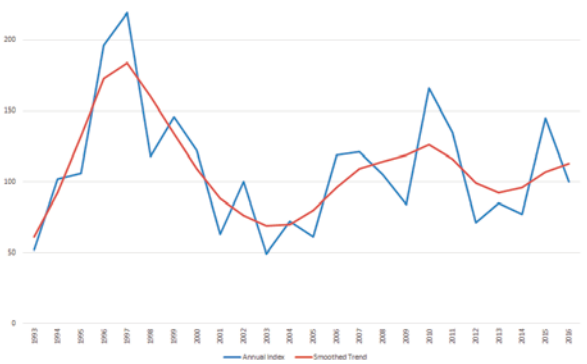
GOWER: Loughor Bridge on 29 March; Aberavon Beach on 17 April; Vile/Rhossili on 2 Aug., four here on 4 Aug. and two on 19th; Crofty on 8 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Pwll on 7 Feb.; Burry Port on 19 Feb.; Penclacwydd on 28 Aug. and 17 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 20-22 Feb.; Angle Bay on 27 Feb.; adult at Lower Town Fishguard on 16 Feb. and 5 March; 2CY at Wiseman's Bridge on 4 March; 2CY at Newport on 29 July; adult at the Gann est. on 23 Dec.; five at Llys y fran Res. on 24 and 30 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 2 Jan.; CEREDIGION: adult at Aberystwyth on 9 Jan.; 2CY at Llanrhystud on 8 April; 1CY at Ynyslas on 19 and 21 July; BRECON: at Llangorse Lake and Brechfa Pool in all months except March, May and June; two adults with a 1CY at Llangorse Lake on 14 Dec.; possible hybrid family (adult accompanied by an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull and two juveniles showing hybrid features) at Brechfa Pool on 20 July; CAERNARFON: 1CY at Bardsey on 3 Sept. and another on 11 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 2CY at Cemlyn on 28 April; DENBIGH: Gresford Flash on 19 Nov.; FLINT: near Rhyl and around Connah's Quay NR during May-Nov.; two at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30 July and 20-21 Oct.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* **GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF**

Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	7028	6056
% of BirdTrack lists	38%	34%

Wetland Bird Survey: Lesser Black-backed Gull in Wales, 1993 - 2016



Breeding surveys indicate declines across Wales, even at colonies that are counted regularly. The counts on Skokholm are the lowest in over 50 years, while the fall on Skomer and Caldey is almost 30% in just 12 months. The counts in Gwent result from a comprehensive survey of *Larus* gulls, most in urban settings, but roof-nesting populations in most other counties remain largely unknown.

Site/county	AON	Comparison AON (year)
GWENT	555	
E.GLAMORGAN		
Cardiff rooftops	59	
Flat Holm	2778	2970 (2016)
GOWER	*c.*25	
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	353	503 (2016)
Castlemartin peninsula	18	21 (2016)
Thorn island	7	14 (1999)
Stack Rock, Milford Haven	14	5 (2000)
Cerrig Gwylan	5	27 (1999)
Skokholm	1123	1397 (2016)
Skomer	4935	6936 (2016)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	164	177 (2016)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr	0	7 (2016)
Ynys Gwylan Bach	0	1 (2016) – viewed from boat
ANGLESEY		
North/South Stack	73	100 (2016)
Skerries	126	

Other breeding records: MEIRIONNYDD: three birds at Craig yr Aderyn on 7 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 12 AON at Llyn Elsi on 22 May; ANGLESEY: two AON on Llanddwyn Island on 18 May; one AON at RSPB Valley Wetlands; nested on Ynys Moelfre and Puffin Island; DENBIGH: 3 AON at Llanddulas quarry; FLINT: nested at one coastal site.

Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey index is 40% lower than its late 1990s peak, numbers appear to have stabilised in recent years.

Max. monthly counts from sites recording 200 or more at least once:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN												
Cardiff Bay	150	300	200	70	45	120	200	250	120	110	100	455
Cosmeston Lakes CP	64	133	165	122	200	100	101	112	59	52	75	60
GOWER												
Blackpill	11	44	81	127	194	169	275	200	59	40	16	17
Upper Loughor estuary	25	6	13	236	124	49	26	86	58	47	10	13
PEMBROKE												
Cleddau estuary	47	323	182						103	311	504	43
Llys y fran Res.	1000	800	250							550	4000	2000
Teifi estuary	22	40	12						500	56	18	4
BRECON												
Llangorse Lake	1300	600	150					40	200	1100	2000	350
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey	6	18	88	134	76	242	204	154	83	65	4	
FLINT												
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	30	30	20	100	40	50	70	600	1000	400	356	

Other large counts (200+): E.GLAMORGAN: 780 on Flat Holm on 12 Aug.; GOWER: 300 at Wernffrwd on 14 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 250 off Broad Haven on 22 March; 300 at Minwear on 29 April; 400 at Abermawr on 23 Sept.; BRECON: 250 roosted at Pontsticill Res. on 28 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: *c.*200 at Dolydd Hafren at end Nov.; DENBIGH: 200 at Gresford Flash on 29 Jan. and 12 Feb.

Tracking: BRECON: a satellite-tracked bird 'Jonathan 16SC' helped to confirm long-held views about the origins and daily movements of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in autumn. It was ringed and tagged as a juvenile on a Greenock factory in 2017; the tracker indicates that it foraged in the R.Clyde for some weeks, then moved to Breconshire via St. Bees Head and Chester. It arrived at Brechfa Pool on 24 Nov., and for several days fed by day in the Wye Valley, washed at Brechfa and then joined the nightly Llangorse roost.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia* **MOR-WENNOL FWYAF**

Rare vagrant, breeding in the Baltic Sea, on BBRC list. 10 previous records.

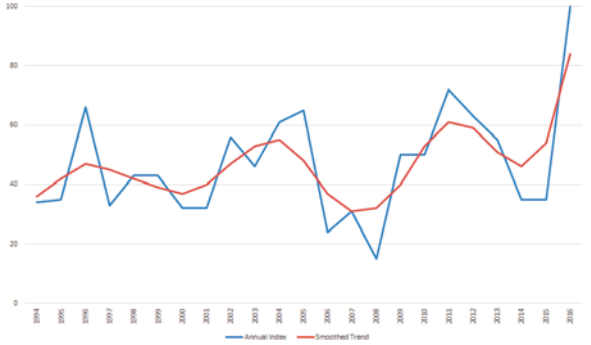
E GLAMORGAN/GOWER/CARMARTHEN: adult at Kenfig and Crymlyn Burrows on 25 June, then Penclacwydd on 26-29 June and 3-6 July, and at Kenfig NNR and Penclacwydd on 24 July. Colour-ringed in Sweden, its leg marking helped to confirm that it visited various English counties between its visits to South Wales in July, and again in Aug., going on to Derbyshire and East Norfolk before the end of the summer.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* **MOR-WENNOL BIGDDU**

Summer visitor and passage migrant to coastal areas in spring and autumn, scarce inland; it is a regular breeder at one site on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	572	573
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

Wetland Bird Survey: Sandwich Tern in Wales, 1974 - 2015



Breeding: ANGLESEY: a disastrous season at Cemlyn, with a max. count of 1980 pairs on 25 May was substantially fewer than the previous two seasons. Long periods of northerly winds in April may have held some birds farther south. Those that nested suffered heavy predation and disturbance at the egg stage, predominantly by European Otter, and no young fledged.

The problems at the Cemlyn colony come at a time when the Wetland Bird Survey index reached a new high in Wales, and a single year of breeding failure shouldn't be a problem for a long-lived seabird.

Counts of 50+ away from breeding colony: GOWER: 58 at Broughton Bay on 7 Sept.; 65 at Port Eynon on 11 Sept. and 60 on 12 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: c.300 at Burry Port/Pembrey Harbour on 29 Aug.; c.250 at Pembrey Harbour on 7 Sept.; c.150 at Cefn Sidan on 19 Sept.; PEMBROKE: at Strumble Head, max. day count 67 on 14 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 60 at Ynyslas on 28 April, 60 here in Aug. and 150 in Sept.; 78 past Mwnt on 13 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 98 at Tonfanau on 2 Sept.; 130 at Aberdysynni on 21 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 75 in the Dwyfor est. on 29 July; 220 at Rhos Point on 2 Sept., then 100+ on 8th, 200 on 9th, 2000 on 11th, 1200 on 14th and 500 on 15th (this run includes the second and third-highest recorded for the county); 60+ off the Little Orme on 8 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 50 at Traeth Lligwy on 11 Sept.; 150 between Moelfre and Dulas on 12 Sept.; 205 passed Point Lynas on 15 Sept.; 70 at Penmon Pt on 5 Oct.; DENBIGH: 300 at Kinmel Bay on two dates in Aug.; 200 at Colwyn Bay on 13 Sept.; FLINT: up to 800 on the R.Clwyd on 19 Aug.; 500 at Gronant beach on 11-12 May and 400 on 8 Aug.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: a colour-ringed bird of Dutch origin was at Burry Port Harbour on 27 Aug.
Monthly maximum counts, CAERNARFON:

	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Bardsey	3	11	2	10	6	32	77	5
Traeth Lafan		12	15	2	15	*c.*500	368	12
Foryd		38	240	5	43	6	16	

Earliest and latest dates by county:

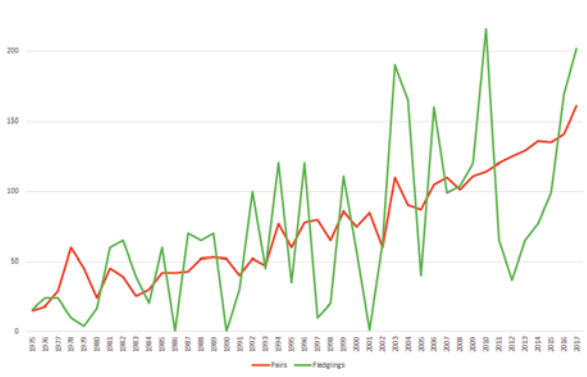
	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
E.GLAMORGAN	27 March	Cardiff Bay		12 Sept.	Sker Point
GOWER	**3 March**	**Wernffrwd**		8 Oct.	Port Eynon & Rhossili Bay
CARMARTHEN	18 March	Pembrey Burrows		5 Oct.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	20 March	Skomer		22 Oct.	Skomer & Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	22 March	Llansantffraed		**23 Oct.**	**Llansantffraed**
MEIRIONNYDD	9 April	Broadwater		23 Sept.	Morfa Harlech
CAERNARFON	11 March	Black Rock		29 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 March	Cemlyn		5 Oct.	Penmon Point
DENBIGH	22 March	Kinmel Bay		10 Oct.	Colwyn Bay
FLINT	8 April	Rhyl promenade		15 Sept.	Rhyl promenade

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* **MOR-WENNOL FECHAN**

Summer resident which breeds only at one colony in Flintshire, otherwise a spring and autumn passage migrant to other coastal areas, rare inland. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	71	76
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Little Tern colony at Gronant, Flintshire, 1975 - 2017



Breeding: FLINT: wardened by Denbighshire County Council, 161 pairs fledged 202 young at Gronant, the highest number of pairs and the second highest number of fledged young since wardening began in the 1970s. Merseyside Ringing Group applied metal rings to half of all chicks that hatched and 20% were also colour-ringed, as were two adults; one pair also bred at Point of Ayr, fledging one young.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
E.GLAMORGAN	5 May	Sker Point			
PEMBROKE				**22 Oct.**	**Strumble Head**
CEREDIGION	**26 April**	**Ynyslas**		13 Sept.	Mwnt
MEIRIONNYDD				21 Aug.	Ynys
CAERNARFON				5 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	11 May	Cemlyn		22 July	near Rhosneigr
FLINT	1 May	Gronant dunes		12 Sept.	Point of Ayr

All other records: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Porthcawl on 12 May; five at Lavernock Pt on 11 June; GOWER: 1CY at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 11 Sept.; six in Swansea Bay on 14 Sept.; PEMBROKE: nine at Strumble Head between 18 Aug. and 22 Oct.; CEREDIGION: two at Ynyslas on 1 May and one on 23 Aug.; one on Teifi est. on 10 Sept.; three off Mwnt on 13 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Ynys on 21 Aug.; CAERNARFON: singles from Bardsey on 9 and 13-14 Sept. and two on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: one near Rhosneigr on 14 June and two (adult and 1CY) here on 22 July; FLINT: four at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 9 July; 600 at Gronant on 25 July included family groups from the Isle of Man and Ireland.

Ringing: FLINT: colour-ringing shows that birds from colonies in Cumbria, Scotland and Ireland use the Welsh coast on migration, particularly late in summer before they head south to their West African winter quarters.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* **MOR-WENNOL WRIDOG**

Occasional breeder on Anglesey; elsewhere scarce on spring and autumn passage at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	14	3
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: a Common/Roseate pairing was present on The Skerries.

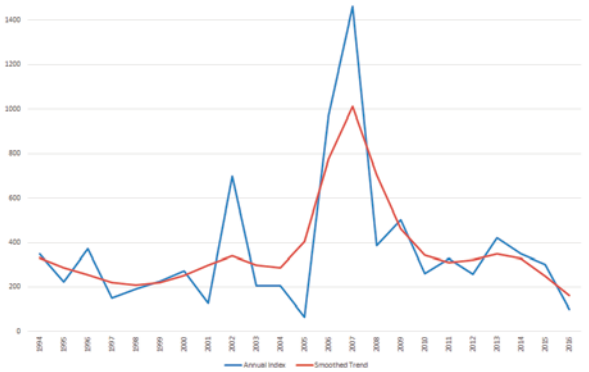
All other records: ANGLESEY: two at Cemlyn on 6 May, one remaining to 7th; one near Rhosneigr on 15 July and two here on 19th.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* **MOR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN**

Summer visitor, breeding in Anglesey and Flintshire. It is a spring and autumn passage migrant to all coastal areas, sometimes found inland. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	230	251
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Wetland Bird Survey: Common Tern in Wales, 1994 - 2016



Breeding: ANGLESEY: 20 pairs bred at Cemlyn, but the colony suffered heavy predation and disturbance and no young fledged; 386 nests on The Skerries and 165 pairs at another colony in Anglesey; FLINT: 407 AON at Shotton Steelworks from which 352 chicks fledged (productivity 0.86 young/nest), fewer than in 2016.

Large counts (10+ birds) elsewhere: GOWER: 10 at Whiteford Pt on 18 April; 31 at Burry Inlet breakwater on 6 Sept.; 19 at Penclawdd and 12 at Burry Inlet breakwater on 8 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 26 off Penclacwydd on 6 Sept. and 25 on 7th; PEMBROKE: 10 off Grassholm on 27 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 12 off Mwnt on 11 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 37 off Bardsey on 23 Aug.; 16 off Rhos Point on 2 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 20+ at Beddmanarch Bay on 8 July; 10 passed Point Lynas on 15 Sept.; FLINT: 150 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 1 May.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	9 April	Llandegfedd Res.		24 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	16 April	Cardiff Bay		2 Oct.	Sully beach
GOWER	**2 April**	**Whiteford Sands**		18 Sept.	Port Eynon
CARMARTHEN	10 May	Cefn Sidan		13 Sept.	Cefn Padrig
PEMBROKE	4 May	Landshipping		**17 Oct.**	**Strumble Head**
CEREDIGION	20 April	Ynyslas		19 Sept.	Ynyslas
BRECON	1 May	Llangorse Lake		24 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MEIRIONNYDD				10 Sept.	Llyn Tegid
CAERNARFON	17 April	Morfa Nefyn		23 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	23 April	Cemlyn		15 Sept.	Point Lynas
FLINT	8 April	Rhyl promenade		3 Oct.	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* **MOR-WENNOL Y GOGLEDD**

Breeds only around the Anglesey coast, elsewhere a regular passage migrant to coastal areas, but generally scarcer than Common, and scarce inland. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	168	156
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: ANGLESEY: 27 pairs nested at Cemlyn but, as with the other tern species, no young fledged; 2770 nests on The Skerries, a significant decrease from last year; 238 nests at another colony in southern Anglesey.

Large counts (10+) elsewhere: GOWER: 23 at Port Eynon on 12 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 17 off Skokholm on

13 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 170 'mostly Arctic' at Ynyslas on 7 May; CAERNARFON: 13 off Bardsey on 8 May, 23 here on 14 Aug., 24 on 15th and 93 on 23rd, four double-figure counts in Sept., max. 130 on 14th; ANGLESEY: 200+ at Rhosneigr on 20 May; 200 off Rhoscolyn on 22 July; FLINT: 50 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27 April.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT				13 Sept.	Newport Wetlands & Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	30 April	Lavernock Point		15 Sept.	Cardiff Bay
GOWER				13 Sept.	Eglwys Nunydd Res. & Rhossili Bay
CARMARTHEN				25 Sept.	Cefn Padrig
PEMBROKE				22 Oct.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	21 April	Ynyslas		5 Oct.	Mwnt
BRECON	30 April	Llangorse Lake			
CAERNARFON	8 May	Bardsey		27 Oct.	Foryd
ANGLESEY	22 April	Cemlyn		**2 Nov.**	**Cemlyn**
DENBIGH				27 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	**17 April**	**Shotton**		5 Oct.	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* **CORS-WENNOL ADEINWEN**

Rare visitor on passage from eastern Europe, on BBRC list. 39 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 1CY off Strumble Head on 27 Aug.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* **CORS-WENNOL DDU**

Fairly common passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn but also recorded on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	48	38
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Records not in the table below: GWENT: five at Llandegfedd Res. on 30 April and one here on 8 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Cardiff Bay

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**16 April**	**Peterstone Wentlooge**		27 Oct.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN				23 Sept.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER				22 Sept.	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
CARMARTHEN				11 Sept.	Penclacwydd & Burry Port Harbour
PEMBROKE				5 Sept.	Strumble Head
CEREDIGION	26 May	Ynyslas		5 Oct.	Mwnt
BRECON	30 April	Llangorse Lake		25 Oct.	Llangorse Lake
RADNOR	26 April	Llandrindod Lake			
MEIRIONNYDD				29 Sept.	Glaslyn estuary
CAERNARFON				5 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	30 April	Llyn Cefni		**29 Oct.**	**Point Lynas**
DENBIGH				1 Oct.	Kinmel Bay
FLINT	22 April	Shotton		3 Oct.	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

on 7 Sept. joined by another on 8th; singles at Kenfig Pool on 10 and 16 Sept.; 1CY at Lisvane Res. on 13-14 Sept.; GOWER: singles over Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 10, 11 and 13 Sept.; one south of Loughor Bridge on 14 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: up to five at Cefn Padrig during 5-9 Sept.; single at Penclacwydd on 8-9 Sept.; PEMBROKE: five at Strumble Head between 18 Aug. and early Sept.; CEREDIGION: four at Ynyslas on 10 Sept.; BRECON: two at Llangorse Lake on 1 May, one here on 26 Aug., three on 1 Oct. and a 1CY on 20-25 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: two on Glaslyn est. on 29 Sept.; CAERNARFON: three off Criccieth on 13 Sept.; singles off Bardsey on 6 and 13 Sept.; ANGLESEY: three passed Cemlyn on 26 Aug.; one off Bull Bay on 13 Sept.; two passed Point Lynas on 15 Sept.; FLINT: one at Shotton on 22-23 April; five at Connah's Quay NR on 30 April; 11 on Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 2 May.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* **SGIWEN FAWR**

Regular on autumn passage along the west coast where small numbers are also seen in winter and spring. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	29	37
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Records of single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 20 and 30 May; Porthcawl and Kenfig Sands on 3 Aug.; St Donats on 23-24 Aug.; GOWER: Langland on 29 March; Tutt Head on 10 Sept.; Port Eynon Pt on 12 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Harbour on 12 Aug.; Cefn Sidan on 9 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 17 May; Skomer on 29 May; two off Strumble Head on 6 June, then 286 passed in Aug. and Sept., max. day count was 58 on 11 Sept. (see summary counts below); Skokholm on 5 Aug.; St. Govan's Head on 14 Aug.; Grassholm on 26 Aug.; 22 passed Skokholm in Sept., then singles here on 13, 15 and 21 Oct.; Pen Anglas on 22 Oct.; Skomer on 17 Oct., seven here on 21st and five on 22nd; CEREDIGION: Ynyslas on 2, 4 and 14 May; 43 in the county between 23 Aug. and 5 Oct., max. count 13 at Mwnt on 11 Sept., eight here on 13 Sept. and six on 2 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Criccieth on 26 Feb.; Black Rock on 25 March; Morfa Abererch on 26 Aug.; Rhos Point on 11 and 14 Sept.; Bardsey recorded its best ever year with 267 individuals (previous best 172 in 2011) see summary of counts below; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 1 Jan. and 25 April; The Range on 13 and 25 April, two here on 27th and five on 28th; 85 passed Point Lynas between 24 Aug. and 28 Nov. with peaks of 11 on 15 Sept., 16 on 5 Oct. and 20 on 29th; 23 passed Cemlyn between 26 Aug. and 5 Oct., max. seven on 15 Sept.; three passed Holyhead Breakwater on 11 Sept.; three passed North Stack on 2 Oct.; DENBIGH: Colwyn Bay on 13 Sept.; FLINT: Rhyl on 3 Sept. and three here on 11th; Point of Ayr on 12 Sept.

Monthly totals from Bardsey, CAERNARFON, and Strumble Head, PEMBROKE:

	May	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	2			13	165	86	1	
Strumble Head		2		28	147	93	15	3

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* **SGIWEN FRECH**

Fairly common offshore passage migrant, particularly in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	42	20
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records are singles unless otherwise stated: GOWER: Port Eynon Pt on 29 July; PEMBROKE: 37 from Strumble Head between Aug. and Oct., max. day count 10 on 22 Oct.; Skokholm on 27 July and 4 Sept.; four off Skomer on 21 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 29 Aug. and 13 Sept.; mouth of the Teifi est. on 9 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: Tywyn on 3 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey had its second best year ever, 38 records of 78 individuals: seven on four dates on 1-5 May, 58 in Sept.

(max. six on 11th) and 17 in Oct. (max. five on 22nd); two off Criccieth on 31 July; Rhos Point on 11 Sept.; Dinas Dinlle on 8 Nov.; ANGLESEY: South Stack on 21 April; Point Lynas on 24 Aug. and 14 Sept., six here on 29 Aug. and four on 29 Oct.; three passed Cemlyn on 28 Aug., one on 1 Sept., two on 15th, two on 22 Oct. and two on 2 Nov.; FLINT: two at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22 Oct. was the first county record since 2013.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* **SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD**

Passage bird off coastal counties; scarce in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	38	58
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Strong passage, especially in autumn in Ceredigion, where it was described as "probably the best ever", and from Bardsey, which recorded 458, more than double the previous record (of 217 in 2011).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT					2	1						
E.GLAMORGAN						4		2	6	1		
GOWER					1			6	4			
CARMARTHEN									4			
PEMBROKE												
Strumble Head							1	111	144	86		
elsewhere					1		3	3	17	3		
CEREDIGION				8	9	2	106					
MEIRIONNYDD								3				
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey					2		2	42	309	103		
elsewhere				1				3	14			
ANGLESEY												
Point Lynas								208				
Cemlyn					2			83				
elsewhere				4		1			5	9		
DENBIGH									2			
FLINT					1			2	4	1		

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* **SGIWEN LOSTFAIN**

Uncommon visitor, chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales, spring records are very infrequent. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	15	8
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records were singles unless otherwise stated: GOWER: Llangenith on 8 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 20 at Strumble Head including two in Aug., nine each in Sept. and Oct.; all were 1CY except a fully long-tailed adult on 26 Aug. and a sub-adult on 9 Sept.; two off Skomer on 21 Oct.; 1CY off Skokholm on 20 Oct. and two here on 28 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 1CY passed Mwnt on 11 Sept. and 5 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Rhos Point on 14-15 Sept.; two passed Bardsey on 11 Sept., four on 13th, singles on 14th and 19th and on 2, 5 and 7 Oct.; ANGLESEY: two 1CY passed Point Lynas on 14 Sept., another two on 15th and singles on 3, 5, 6 and 7 Oct.; one passed Cemlyn on 5 Oct.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* **CARFIL BACH**

Scarce winter visitor in irregular numbers offshore on the western seaboard. Most sightings in late autumn and early winter; often associated with westerly gales.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	14	1
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records: CAERNARFON: one off Llanfairfechan on 30 Jan.; one south past Bardsey on 5 Nov. This was one of the poorest years ever.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* **GWYLOG**

Resident breeding species in SW and NW counties, moving out to sea to moult after breeding and returning to the vicinity of colonies as early as Dec. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is adults on land (AOL).

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	500	507
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding: most sites recorded increases on the last counts, with Great Orme and Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, presenting their highest counts ever. The apparent lower counts on the Castlemartin peninsula, Pembrokeshire, may result from differences in the methodology, counting from good digital images rather than by eye, a method that will be repeated in 2018 and compared with observer estimates.

Site/county	AOL	Comparison AOL (year)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	58	38 (2016)
St. Margaret's island	1378	1403 (2016)
Castlemartin peninsula	16,434	20,095 (2016)
Middleholm	310	315 (2009)
Skokholm	4038	3949 (2016)
Skomer	24,788	23,746 (2015)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	1574	1346 (2016)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr	23	19 (2016)
Ynys Gwylan Bach	49	32 (2016) – partial counts
Great Orme	2618	2264 (2016)
Little Orme	805	845 (2016)
ANGLESEY		
North/South Stack	9690	8122 (2016)
Puffin island	3085	

Other breeding record: CAERNARFON: three AOL at Porth Llanllawen on 14 June.

Max. monthly counts from sites monitored in CAERNARFON:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bardsey	573	1212	63	239	1154	1068	540	21	73	203	72	822
Great Orme			200	160	20	250	4					1
Little Orme	25	300	100		40		4	1				

Other counts (5+): E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at West Aberthaw on 10 Nov.; eight at Sker Pt on 3 Dec.; GOWER: 37 at Port Eynon Pt on 15 April; 200 at Rhossili/Mewslade on 23 April; 400 south of Rhossili causeway on 28 April; 26 at Inner Worm's Head on 6 May; CAERNARFON: 100 around Morfa Nefyn on 2 April; 150 passed Rhos Point on 14 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 50 at Moelfre on 14 Feb.; 3000 at South Stack on 28 Feb.; 50

at Moelfre on 27 April; 70 off Llanlleina on 1 July; 300 at Penmon on 8 July; DENBIGH: five off Colwyn Bay on 15 Sept.; FLINT: 10 at Rhyl on 11 Sept.; six at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22 Oct. was a high count 19km from the mouth of the estuary.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* **LLURS**

Breeding resident on the cliffs and islands of the north-west and south-west. Some disperse south in winter but others remain in Welsh waters. Wales Amber listed. The count unit is adults on land (AOL).

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	430	484
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding: most monitored colonies in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire recorded increases, but even some of those with lower counts were still above the long-term average, e.g. Castlemartin peninsula, was the second highest ever; four study plots on Skomer produced an average breeding success of 0.49 young/pair (*cf.* 0.4 young/pair in 2016). By contrast, Caernarfonshire colonies were 30% smaller in just one year, though sample counts on Bardsey suggest productivity was probably reasonable.

Site/county	AOL	Comparison AOL (year)
PEMBROKE		
Caldey	69	87 (2016)
St. Margaret's island	307	281 (2016)
Castlemartin peninsula	1502	1608 (2016)
Middleholm	398	229 (2009)
Skokholm	2491	2242 (2016)
Skomer	24,788	23,746 (2015)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	1742	2302 (2016)
Ynys Gwylan Fawr	18	38 (2016)
Ynys Gwylan Bach	19	6 (2016) – partial count
Great Orme	143	291 (2016)
Little Orme	25	139 (2016)
ANGLESEY		
North/South Stack	1367	1067(2016)
Puffin island	536	210 (2016)

Other breeding record: CAERNARFON: eight AOL at Porth Llanllawen.

Other counts included: GOWER: 50 south of Rhossili causeway on 28 April; CEREDIGION: 280 off Borth on 7 Nov.; CAERNARFON: see Bardsey table below; 100 off Deganwy on 16 Feb.; 50 off Morfa Abererch on 5 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 50 at Penmon on 15 April; 300 off Penmon Pt on 8 July; large numbers of mixed auks passed Point Lynas during the autumn with peak day count of 4230 on 29 Oct., 90% of which were Razorbills.

Monthly maximum counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	82	36	914	703	7885	1308	550	47	2001	1475	756	44

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cepphus grylle* **GWYLOG DDU**

Very scarce breeding resident in Anglesey and rarely elsewhere. Occurs sparingly off the coasts of Wales outside the breeding season. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	127	152
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Breeding: PEMBROKE: pair in Fishguard Harbour from 21 March to 18 July but no proof of breeding; CAERNARFON: several regularly around Great Orme from 11 March (max. six on 28th), two in April, one in May and and present in July; one off Bardsey on 9 May and two on 22 May; present between Machroes and Porth Ceiriad on 10 May; ANGLESEY: seven in Holyhead Old Harbour on 25 May and 12 on 30 June; three pairs off Benllech on 7 July probably bred under the cliffs there.

All records away from above sites, singles unless otherwise stated: PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 22 Oct.; CEREDIGION: New Quay on 2 May; CAERNARFON: 1-2 regularly around Bangor harbour from 15 Jan. to 19 Feb.; three nearby at Porth Penrhyn on 12 Feb.; Bardsey on 22 July, 24 Aug., 1 and 6 Sept.; present at Traeth Crugan on 23 Oct.; Bangor Pier on 8 Dec.; ANGLESEY: regular in Holyhead Harbour in both winter periods, max. eight on 4 March; pair off Wylfa Head on 6 March; four at Moelfre on 7 March; at Cemlyn, up to six regularly during May-July; Inland Sea on 5 Oct. to 21 Dec; two off Beaumaris on 30 Nov.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica* **PÂL**

Breeding bird of offshore islands and a few western headlands. Formerly bred in large numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	215	163
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: increases at most colonies, including at Skomer, the largest in Wales.

Other notable counts included: GOWER: seven at outer Worm's Head on 18 June; CARMARTHEN: one off Cefn Sidan on 12 Sept. was the first since 2007.

Site/county	AOB	Comparison AOB (year)
PEMBROKE		
St. Margaret's island	4	2 (2016)
Stackpole Head	1	1 (2016)
North Bishop	40	
Skokholm	7800	6692 (2016)
Skomer	25,227	22,539 (2016)
CAERNARFON		
Bardsey	100	60 (2016) - estimate
Ynys Gwylan Fawr	663	682 (2016)
Ynys Gwylan Bach	47	
ANGLESEY		
North/South Stack	12 AOL	
Puffin island	19 AOL	
Skerries	156	

Monthly maximum counts off Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

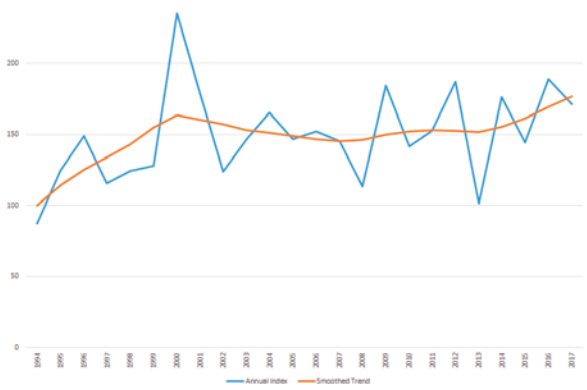
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey			3	51	48	140	169	3	3	2		

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia* **COLOMEN DDOF**

Common resident in most towns and on some sea cliffs. Greatly under-recorded. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3053	2789
% of BirdTrack lists	17%	16%

Breeding Bird Survey: Feral Pigeon in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 76% higher than in 1994 and has shown an upward spurt in the last couple of years.

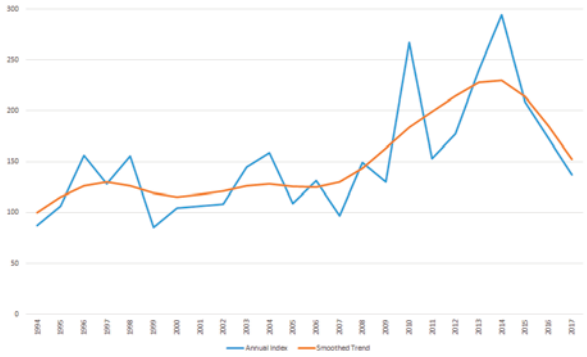
Large counts (100+): GOWER: regular flock of *c.*140 in Port Talbot town centre all year, *c.*120 feeding in clover at Taibach rugby ground mid May; BRECON: 150 in Brecon town on 28 Jan.; DENBIGH: 230 at Kinmel Bay on 19 Sept.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* **COLOMEN WYLLT**

Breeding resident occurring widely but not numerously, most common in lowland areas. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	628	720
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

Breeding Bird Survey: Stock Dove in Wales, 1994 - 2017

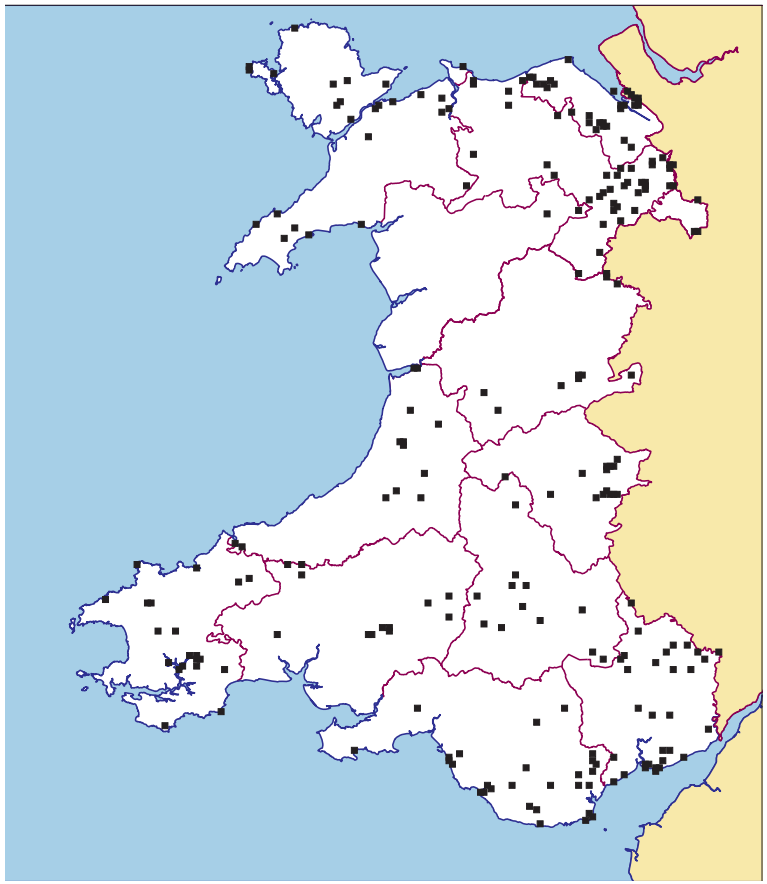


The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 52% higher than in 1994, though has dropped back (by 77% between 2014 and 2017) to levels of a decade ago. *Ceredigion Bird Report* notes the number of records received (and locations) are down 60% since 2008.

Large counts (15+): GWENT: max. count 90 at Ton, near Llanygybi, on 13 Feb.; 1000 west over Newport Wetlands Reserve on 27 Oct., with a large Woodpigeon movement, is probably a county record; E.GLAMORGAN: 22 at Llancadle on 6 May; 22 at Penllyn Moor on 21 May; 33 at Kenfig Pool on 30 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 24 at Penlan Uchaf on 11 Jan.; 48 at Cilsan Bridge on 17 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 15 at Slebech Park on 28 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 40 near Tregaron on 20 Jan.; 20 at Llanilar on 8 Feb.; 25 at Llanerchaeron on 12 Feb.; 34 near New Cross on 7 June; BRECON: 25 on a Glastir winter birdcrop at Pencaemaen on 8 March; 25 at Aberbran Fawr on 4 June; 40 on oilseed rape stubble at Pennorth on 23 July; max. 60 on Glastir winter birdcrop at Cwrt-y-Prior on 16 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 50 at Caerhun on 24 Feb.; DENBIGH: 16 at Dyserth on 15 April; FLINT: 40 at Connah's Quay NR on 16 Sept.

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Stock Dove (n = 240)



WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* **YSGUTHAN**

Abundant breeding species: passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	10488	10670
% of BirdTrack lists	57%	60%

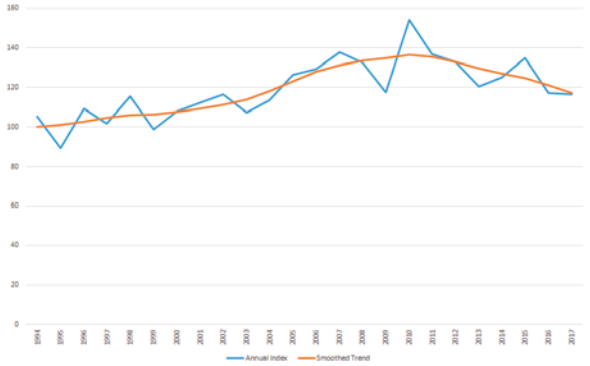
The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 16% higher than in 1994 but has fallen by 19% since 2010.

High counts over south Wales, starting in Gwent in 20-22 Oct., but the largest came from Gwent and East Glamorgan on 27-28th, including a remarkable 225,000 over Newport Wetlands on 27th. From 30th, larger numbers were noted farther west in Pembrokeshire, where four-figure counts were seen until 8 Nov.

Large flocks (300+): GWENT: 1260 over Goldcliff Pt on 20 Oct.; 1500 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Oct. followed by counts of 15,000 here on 22nd, 225,000 on 27th and 502 on 10 Nov.; 6000 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 22 Oct.; 2715 over Pentre Poeth on 25 Oct. and 350 here on 29th; 2000 over Dingestow on 25 Oct.; 1000 at Llangybi on both 25 and 27 Oct.; 1000 over The Bryn on 27

Oct.; 1500 over Pwll Ddu on 27 Oct.; 700 on The Blorenge on 9 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 at Ty'n-y-Caeau Farm on 4 Jan.; 2000 over Llandough Hospital on 25 Oct.; "several hundred" SW over Cwm Col-huw on 27 Oct.; 67,060 in 20 flocks (inc. one of 11,300) over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. and 7000 over Dunraven on 27 Oct.; 3600 over Dunraven, 1726 over Kenfig Pool, 750 over Roath and 500 over Cosmeston Lakes CP on 28 Oct.; 590 over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 29 Oct.; 25,500 SSW over Canton in two hours and 987 over Kenfig Pool on 30 Oct., and 647 here on 31st; 370 over Lavernock Pt on 3 Nov.; GOWER: *c.*3500 over Port Talbot and 616 over Gnoll Woods on 29 Oct.; 1000s flying over Middleton on 30 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 616 in one hour over Penclacwydd on 25 Oct.; *c.*1000 at Pembrey Burrows on 27 Oct.; c.500 at Llanedi on 29 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 1420 over Skomer on 30 Oct., 1610 here on 2 Nov., 2000 on 6 Nov. and 1182 on 8 Nov.; 12,000 over Pencarnan Camp on 6 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 1000 at Llanon on 13 July; BRECON: 1100 birds over Llangorse Lake in one hour on 26 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 830 on Bardsey on 30 Oct. was the highest number ever on the island (*cf.* 300 in 1975 and 1976); DENBIGH: 350 over Penycae on 13 Nov.; 956 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 28 Nov.; 300 at Rhewl on 1 Dec.; FLINT: 350 at Shotwick Fields on 4 Jan.

Breeding Bird Survey: Woodpigeon in Wales, 1994 - 2017



TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* **TURTUR**

Extinct as a breeding species following a long decline in the late 20th century; now a scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	19	15
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Around a dozen records is sadly typical for recent years. All records were single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Newport on 9 May; PEMBROKE: St David's Head on 8 May; St Ishmaels on 20-21 and 29 May; Swanlake Bay on 27 May; Skomer on 1-2 June; Porthclais on 20 Oct.; BRECON: Cradoc in late May; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 25 May; Bardsey on 26 May and 1 June; Morfa Nefyn on 1-2 June; ANGLESEY: Rhosgoch on 15-19 May.

Omitted record for 2016: E.GLAMORGAN: one at Kenfig NNR on 7 May.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* **TURTUR DORCHOG**

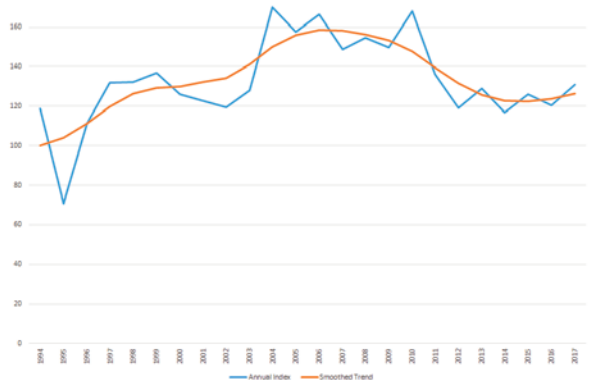
Widespread and common resident, having first appeared in Wales in 1959. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3032	3392
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	19%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 26% higher than in 1994, and looks to have stabilised following a marked fall at the start of the current decade.

Counts of 25+: CEREDIGION: 30 at Ynys Tachwedd on 1 Aug.; 47 near Ynyslas on 27 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 55 on the Alaw est. on 2 Sept.; DENBIGH: 30 on stubble near Rhuthun on 1 Nov.; FLINT: 97 at Rhyl Brickworks on 8 Jan. and 55 here on 2 Nov.

Breeding Bird Survey: Collared Dove in Wales, 1994 - 2017

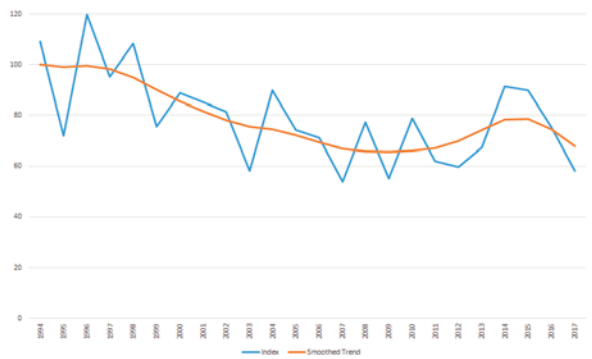


CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* **COG**

Formerly locally common breeding summer visitor to all counties but declining and far from common; also recorded on passage. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	535	485
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

Breeding Bird Survey: Cuckoo in Wales, 1994 - 2017



After a couple of years of more positive news, the decline continues, monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey, the index 32% lower than its 1994 level.

Breeding: GWENT: possibly bred at three sites; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at two locations, probably at 2-4 others,

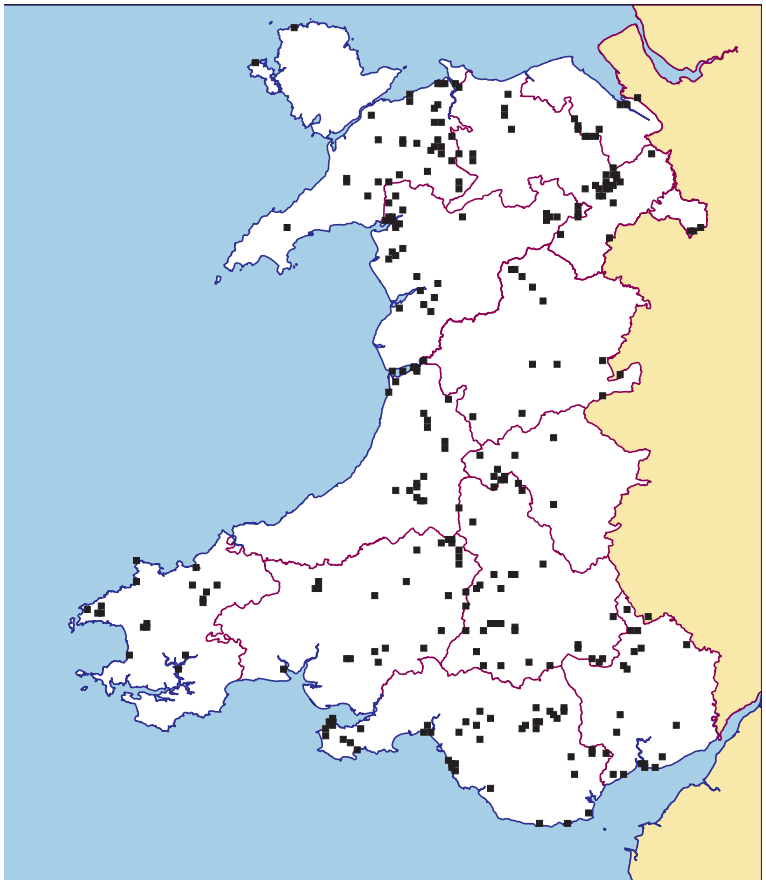
Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	18 April	Ysgyryd Fawr & Newport Wetlands		26 July	Monmouth (dead juvenile)
E.GLAMORGAN	19 April	Bargoed		22 Aug.	Parc Slip NR
GOWER	18 April	Margam Moors		26 June	Upper Cwm Egel
CARMARTHEN	**9 April**	**Pembrey airfield**		**2 Sept.**	**Penclacwydd**
PEMBROKE	18 April	Skomer		26 July	Skomer
CEREDIGION	**9 April**	**Trefenter**		2 Aug.	Ynyslas
BRECON	13 April	The Cwm		25 July	Llansantffraed
RADNOR	16 April	Painscastle & Rhosgoch Bog			
MEIRIONNYDD	18 April	Pont Croesor		10 July	Palé Moor
CAERNARFON	17 April	Llandudno		7 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	24 April	Breakwater CP, Holyhead		12 Aug.	Mynydd Bodafon
DENBIGH	16 April	Penycae		10 Aug.	Fenn's Moss
FLINT	18 May	Pontblyddyn		22 June	Gwernaffield

plus calling males at 11; GOWER: probably bred at Melincwrt; PEMBROKE: breeding suspected at three locations; CEREDIGION: records from 20 sites; BRECON: only two males and one female in survey of 25 sq. km of commonland in the Elenydd, above Beulah and Abergwesyn; MEIRIONNYDD: at 45 locations, with 2+ birds at eight sites but only one confirmed breeding record; CAERNARFON: at 46 locations between 21 April and early June, mostly in Snowdonia, but only four territories reported; two juveniles on Bardsey in late July, one of which was confirmed to have been reared by Meadow Pipits on the island, and the other probably so; max. count seven above Capel Curig on 11 May; ANGLESEY: recorded at only four locations, including on 13 dates at Cemlyn between 6 May and 22 July; DENBIGH: 82 records in 54 1-km squares; FLINT: eight records in seven 1-km squares.

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Cuckoo (n = 283)



BARN OWL *Tyto alba* **TYLLUAN WEN**

Breeding resident in all counties. The population may be stable in the long term in many counties, but numbers are still considerably reduced in some areas following a run of cold winters. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	227	136
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

GWENT: confirmed breeding at nine sites, probably at one other; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Bargoed; recorded at 13 other sites; GOWER: bred at Crynant; recorded at 14 other sites; CARMARTHEN: bred at Blaenduad and Brynheulog; recorded at six other sites; PEMBROKE: one occupied nest; recorded at 12 other sites; CEREDIGION: a few breeding season records; BRECON: pair bred near Trecastle; recorded at 16 other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred in Llanfrothen area, with a handful of other records from the northwest of the county; CAERNARFON: breeding confirmed near Llandwrog and probably in Coed Gwydir; recorded at 10 other sites; ANGLESEY: two pairs fledged five young at RSPB Cors Ddyga; recorded at six other sites; DENBIGH: 16 nests fledged 42 young (2.63/nest), including four in nestboxes around Wrexham for the first time; FLINT: one nest at Hawarden.

Barn Owl (Jeff Slocombe)

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* **TYLLUAN FRECH**

Common and widespread breeding resident in areas of woodland in all counties but possibly declining. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	449	408
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding records and significant counts: GWENT: bred at four sites; E.GLAMORGAN: young seen at four sites; may have bred at a fifth; GOWER: bred at five sites; CARMARTHEN: records from five locations; BRECON: young seen or heard at 11 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: confirmed breeding at two sites and probably at two others; CAERNARFON: eight territories, plus birds at 18 other locations; ANGLESEY: seven locations but Cors Erddreiniog was the only confirmed breeding site; DENBIGH: one confirmed nest and three probable pairs; FLINT: one confirmed nest and one other probable pair.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* **TYLLUAN FACH**

Locally common breeding resident in some eastern counties, scarcer and probably decreasing in the west. Records have been fewer in many counties in recent years, and it has been suggested that the species is now more nocturnal than previously.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	77	75
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding confirmed at just two sites, and possibly at two others. GWENT: singles at ten sites but no breeding reported; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at five locations but no breeding reported; PEMBROKE: four pairs bred on Ramsey; possibly bred at St David's; present on Skomer; BRECON: one heard in a traditional territory at Cradoc; CAERNARFON: six territories on Bardsey but no young seen; single records from two sites on the Llŷn; ANGLESEY: brood at Cemlyn was the only confirmed breeding; DENBIGH: only two records (*cf.* 16 in 2016) and no evidence of breeding.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* **TYLLUAN GORNIOG**

Scarce resident in some counties (6-14 pairs in 2016). Also a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	9	5
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Seven territories noted of a probably under-recorded bird. Tape playback in a conifer plantation adjacent to moorland on a calm night in late Feb./March could reveal more, as undertaken in Torfaen/Blaenau Gwent. All records: GWENT: four territories, one nest found; one at Blackrock on 8 Aug.; CEREDIGION: birds called in suitable breeding habitat at Cwm Einion and the Llyfnant Valley; MEIRIONNYDD: one called in suitable nesting habitat at Cadair Benllyn on 27 April; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey on six dates, but may only have been two birds (May and Aug.)

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* **TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG**

Scarce breeding resident (6-17 pairs in 2016). Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	243	106
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: now a very scarce bird, with seven pairs on the Pembrokeshire islands and only 1-6 on the mainland, though no records were received from Montgomeryshire or Radnorshire. PEMBROKE: four pairs fledged seven young on Skomer; pair bred on Skokholm for first time, fledging young; two pairs on Ramsey; MEIRIONNYDD: singles at three sites during late April-June; CAERNARFON: pair bred in the Carneddau and possibly at two sites in Migneint.

Approximate monthly totals (excluding breeding records above):

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	8	2	1							2	1	1
E.GLAMORGAN			1		1				1	2		
GOWER	1			2		1				1		4
CARMARTHEN			1		1					1	1	4
PEMBROKE	1		1	1	1		1			1	3	1
CEREDIGION	1		2									1
BRECON											1	1
MEIRIONNYDD	1									1	3	3
CAERNARFON				1						2	5	1
ANGLESEY	2	1	1	2	3					1	1	1
DENBIGH	1	1	1	1		1						
FLINT	1										1	1

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* **TROELLWR MAWR**

Widespread but scarce summer visitor, now mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	56	75
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birders tend to visit a small number of traditional sites. Until there is a new national survey, population trends are not accurately known.

Records of churring males were received as follows: GWENT: six each at Wentwood and Crosskeys; four at Coed y Llanerch; three each at Beacon Hill, Broad Meend and Manmoel; two at Oak Lane (where a nest was found); singles at eight other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: three (and two females) at Llanwonno; records from six other sites; GOWER: three at Mynydd Margam; 2-3 at Mynydd Nant y Bar; one at Mynydd Dinas; records from seven other sites; CARMARTHEN: three at Cwduad plantation; four at Llanybydder; CEREDIGION: four at Cors Fochno and singles at Cross Inn Forest, Foel Fawr and RSPB Ynyshir; BRECON: singles at Coed y Rhaiadr and Abercynafon Lodge; brood fledged at Buckland Wood; RADNOR: seven birds found in a survey of 13 sites; MEIRIONNYDD: four around Dwyryd est.; one at Rhiwbryfdir; MEIRIONNYDD/DENBIGH: six (and three females) in Ceiriog Forest; CAERNARFON: 2-3 at Cors Bodygynydd; DENBIGH: max. eight in Coed Llandegla.

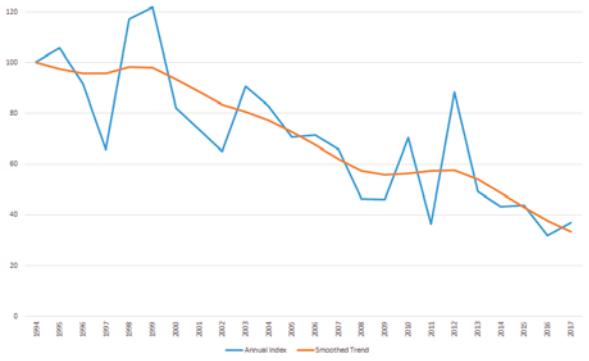
Migration: BRECON: an unusually late record involved one taking moths around arc lights at an open-air concert venue at Erwood on 1 Oct.

SWIFT *Apus apus* **GWENNOL DDU**

Widespread and plentiful summer visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1511	1545
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Breeding Bird Survey: Swift in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Although well recorded on passage and in suitable habitat at the right time of year, breeding records for this largely urban species are generally sparse. More complete recording of breeding locations would help with the local protection of the species, and grants from the Welsh Ornithological Society have supported such projects in Cardiff and North Wales. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline (-67%) since recording began in the mid 1990s.

Breeding: GWENT: probably bred at 11 sites, including 7-9 nests at Risca; E.GLAMORGAN: evidence at eight locations, including 11 pairs at Maesteg and 15 suspected nests at Pontypridd; GOWER: bred at six sites; PEMBROKE: evidence from only three locations; CEREDIGION: <20 nesting records received, scattered in villages; BRECON: nested at nine locations in Brecon town; also at 14 other locations, inc. five in Llangammach Wells church, but none at two sites where building work has taken place; MEIRIONNYDD: five nests at four locations and screaming parties at a further four; CAERNARFON: nests at 18 locations and screaming parties at a further seven; ANGLESEY: nests in three towns; DENBIGH: nesting suspected at six sites; FLINT: breeding suspected at two sites in Flint town.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

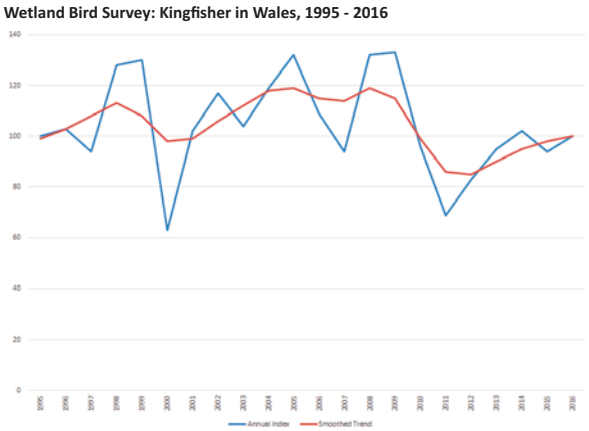
	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	21 April	Ynysyfro Res.		21 Sept.	Newport Wetlands
E.GLAMORGAN	21 April	Cardiff		**23 Sept.**	**Cardiff**
GOWER	22 April	Cwmrhydceirw		27 Aug.	Middleton Farm
CARMARTHEN	1 May	Abergwili		18 Sept.	Burry Port
PEMBROKE	**19 April**	**Marloes**		28 Aug.	Llanychaer
CEREDIGION	27 April	Cors Caron		15 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	21 April	Llangynidr		21 Aug.	Brecon town
MEIRIONNYDD	3 May	Tan yr Allt		23 Aug	Ynysfor
CAERNARFON	22 April	Bardsey		22 Aug.	Nant-y-Gamar
ANGLESEY	26 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		4 Sept.	Cemlyn
DENBIGH	25 April	RSPB Conwy		17 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	27 April	Connah's Quay NR		10 Sept.	Connah's Quay NR

Large counts (80+): GWENT: 100 at Monmouth on 5 June; 632 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 29 June, 534 here on 30th; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Upper Boat on 5 May; 200 at Cardiff Bay on 15 May, 150 here on 4 June and 100 on 29th; PEMBROKE: 363 over Skomer, 89 over Skokholm and 85 over St David's Head in three hours on 5 May; BRECON: 100 fed over Waun fach escarpment on 20 June; CAERNARFON: 130 over Bardsey on 9 June and 137 on 17 July; 150 fed over stubble fields below Sychnant Pass on 20 July; FLINT: 340 at Connah's Quay NR on 6 Aug.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* **GLAS Y DORLAN**

Resident in lowland areas. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1010	1010
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%



Kingfishers were hit hard by icy conditions in 2010 and 2011, but have since been making a slow recovery, according to the Wetland Bird Survey. Bird reports featured only eight confirmed nests (six in south Wales), five probable and 18 possible nests. On Anglesey, Kingfishers are increasingly widespread on the island outside the breeding season, but nesting was not recorded.

BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* **GWYBEDOG Y GWENYN**

Scarce passage migrant, on WRP list; 64 previous records.

ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn and Hen Borth on 14 May.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* **COPOG**

Ucommon but regular passage migrant to Wales.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	27	5
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Ten records is a typical showing. All were of single birds: E.GLAMORGAN: in a Bridgend garden on 23 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Pwll on 21 Sept.; Ferryside on 27-28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Abercych on 27 March; Haverfordwest on 30 March; Marloes on 28 Sept.; Wooltack Pt on 1-3 Oct.; St David's Head on 15 Oct.; Skokholm on 31 Oct.; CEREDIGION: one by R.Clettwr on 11 June.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* **PENGAM**

Uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	119	2
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

16 records is a return to the norm following a bumper 2016 autumn. All records were single birds: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 23 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: Pant Norton (Ogmore) on 1-2 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 23 Aug.; St David's Head on 24-25 Aug.; Skomer from 29 Aug. to 9 Sept.; Marloes Deer Park on 2-6 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Llandysul garden on the unusual date of 18 July; Rhydowen garden on 4 Sept.; Mwnt on 9-14 Sept.; CAERNARFON: seven individuals on Bardsey between 23 Aug. and 29 Sept.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates minor* **CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF**

Scarce and localised breeding resident, principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys (22 pairs in 2016). Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	12	16
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Recorded at 32 sites during the year, of which 14 were during April to July. All were singles unless otherwise stated: GWENT: regularly visited a bird table in Pontydyrn during winter 2016/17; Llandegfedd Res. on 3 Jan.; Llantilio Pertholey on 3 Jan.; Usk on 21 Jan. and 14 March; Newport Wetlands Reserve on 30 Jan.; Malpas on 2 Feb.; Mounton on 13 Feb. and 1 March; Trellech on 4 April; drumming at Gobion on 1 May; Coed-y-Cerrig on 17 May; E.GLAMORGAN: Efail Isaf on 17 March; Llangynwyd on 19 April and 14 Sept.; Cwm Darren Woods on 21 April; Llety Brongu WTW on 24 April; CARMARTHEN: at Cynghordy on three dates in late winter/spring; at Halfway on 19 May; CEREDIGION: two pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir through the year; female at Llandysul on 15 March; BRECON: at Elan village in March and at Bwlch in March and April; at Abernegal on 2 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: drumming at Coed Crafnant on 7 May; Dolgellau in June; Pont Croesor/Ynysfor on three dates in June-July; regularly in a garden at Ynys Crossing in Sept.-Dec. (possibly from RSPB Ynys-hir, CEREDIGION); CAERNARFON: Garn Fadryn on 18 Oct.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 3 March; Penycae and at Marford Quarry on 19 Dec.; near Rhuthun on 12 Nov., which was described as a regular visitor; FLINT: female at Rhydymwyn on 12 Nov.

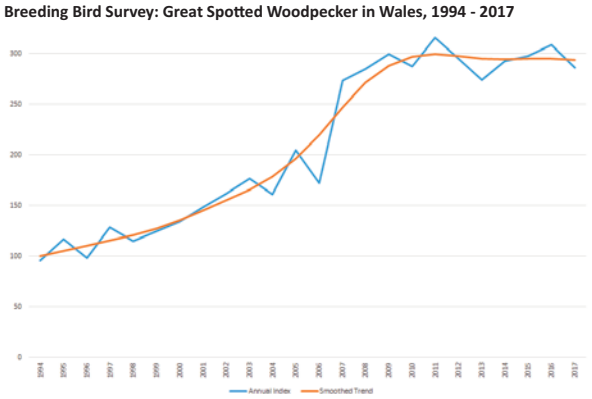
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* **CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF**

Common breeding resident in wooded parts of Wales. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2881	3272
% of BirdTrack lists	14%	17%

Following a sustained growth in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in the 15 years to 2010, the population has levelled off in recent years, birds presumably having filled most of the suitable habitat available. It is becoming more widespread as a breeding species on Anglesey.

Notable records: CAERNARFON: max. count 4 (migrating) birds on Bardsey on three dates in Oct.; one in Cwm Caseg on the east side of the Carneddau, miles from any trees, on 24 July.



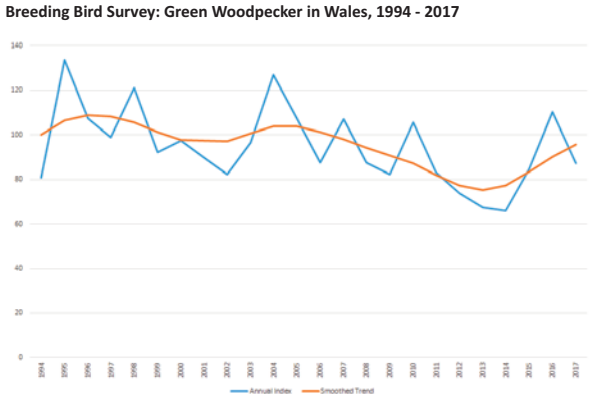
Great Spotted Woodpecker (Anthony Mathews)

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis* **CNOCELL WERDD**

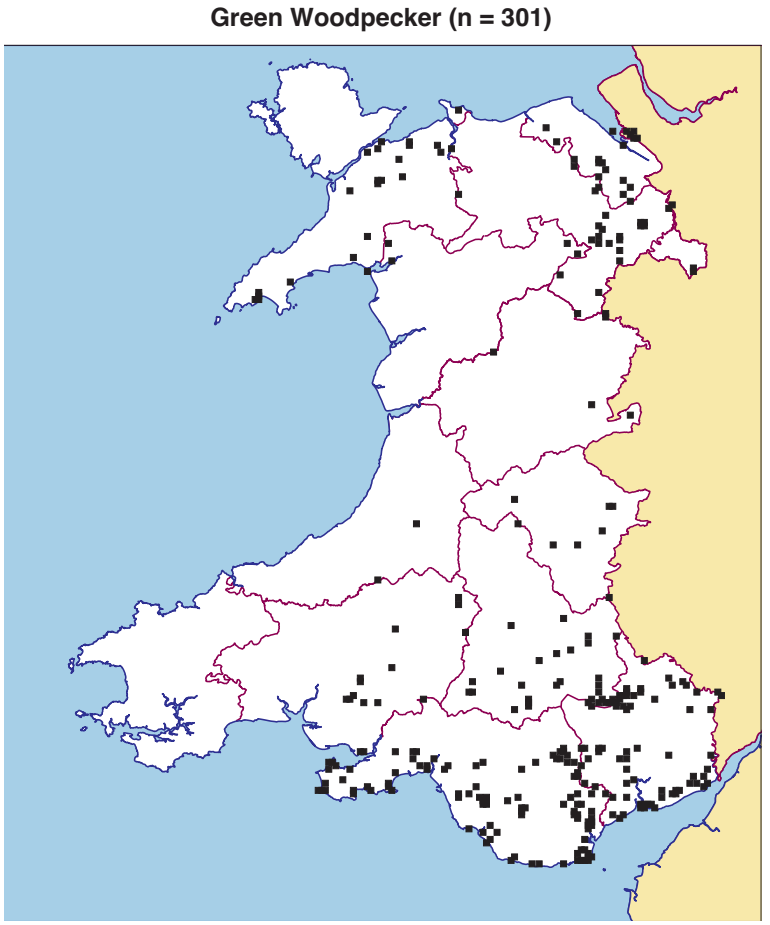
Once a common breeding resident throughout lowland Wales except on Anglesey. Doing well in some eastern and southern counties but declining in most western counties, and Montgomery and Radnor. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1070	1118
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Following a fall in the Breeding Bird Survey trend for Wales during 2004-14, the index has recovered to within 4% of its 1994 level. Records in county bird reports are predominantly from south and east Wales, with just one sighting in Pembrokeshire, two from Ceredigion, none from Anglesey and just single breeding records from Caernarfonshire and Denbighshire.



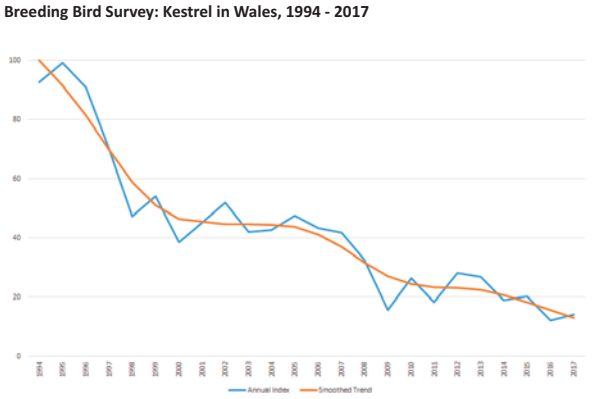
All BirdTrack records in 2017:



KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus* **CUDYLL COCH**

Rather scarce breeding resident throughout Wales. Partial and passage migrant in small numbers to some counties. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1363	1622
% of BirdTrack lists	6%	7%



A small increase in the frequency of Kestrel's inclusion on BirdTrack lists, but the long-term BBS trend is at its lowest ever.

Incomplete breeding information includes: GWENT: max. 10 pairs; E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at two sites; GOWER: bred at two sites, possibly at another 14; CARMARTHEN: no breeding season records; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from just two locations and no pairs on Ramsey (*cf.* two in 2016); CEREDIGION: bred at a number of sites, with several broods ringed at nestboxes in the north of the county; BRECON: 4-5 probable pairs in quarries; MEIRIONNYDD: confirmed at one site, probable at three and possible at 10 others; CAERNARFON: confirmed breeding at one site, probable at five and possible at 17; DENBIGH: two confirmed nests; FLINT: one confirmed nest.

15 nests monitored in north, mid and west Wales by the Welsh Kite Trust fledged 58 chicks, the average 3.9 young/nest is close to the long-term mean.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* **CUDYLL TROEDGOCH**

Rare visitor from southeast Europe. On WRP list; 21 previous records.

Three in a year is the highest ever total in Wales. PEMBROKE: male at Strumble Head on 11-13 May; CEREDIGION: female at Llyn Berwyn, Tregaron, on 12-13 June; ANGLESEY: male around the Alaw est. on 6-7 May.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius* **CUDYLL BACH**

Scarce breeding resident (7-21 pairs in 2016), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	194	203
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding season records: CARMARTHEN: singles at two sites; BRECON: seven singles in areas of suitable habitat but breeding not proven; MEIRIONNYDD: four nests fledged five young; CAERNARFON: pair bred in the northern Carneddau, with possibly a second to the south; DENBIGH: probably bred at one site.

ANGLESEY: records from 16 sites inc. two regularly at RSPB Cors Ddyga during first winter period.

A summary of non-breeding records:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	2		3	4	2		1	1	1	10	3	4
E.GLAMORGAN	1	1	1	1		1			3	4	3	
GOWER	2	1	1	1						2	3	2
CARMARTHEN	15	1				1		12				
PEMBROKE	6	1	4	8	1+		1	1	2+	11	14	5
CEREDIGION	7	3	2	4				1	3	2	5	3
BRECON		2	3						1	1	3	3
MONTGOMERY												
MEIRIONNYDD	1		2	2				1	4	1		
CAERNARFON		1	2	3			1		1	3	3	3
Bardsey				2	1			P	P	P		

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo* **HEBOG YR EHEDYDD**

Rare breeding summer visitor in at least six counties (23-49 pairs in 2016). Elsewhere a rare passage migrant, although a few summer on occasion. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	103	102
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding information: GOWER: four nests in the Usk Valley, of which three were successful; also probably bred at two other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at a site in the Vale of Glamorgan, and possibly at two other sites; BRECON: three pairs confirmed, further three probably bred and six other territories possibly occupied; DENBIGH: bred near Almere.

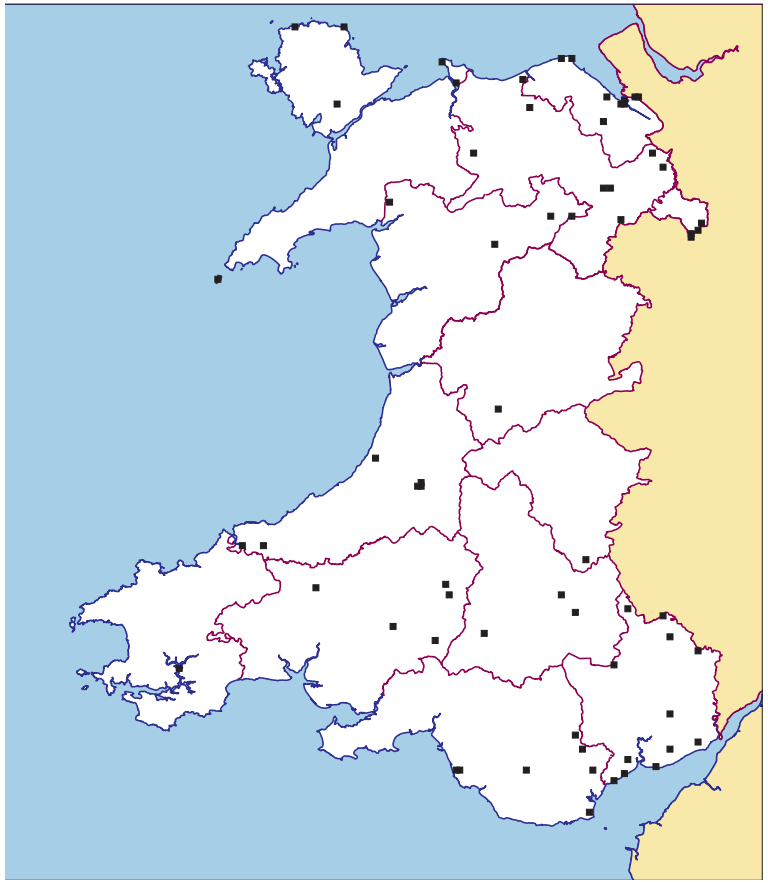
Approximate monthly totals of non-breeding birds:

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
GWENT	5	5	7	8	11	6	1
E.GLAMORGAN	2				1	9	1
GOWER	2			1			
CARMARTHEN		1				1	
PEMBROKE		1			1		
CEREDIGION		3			5	1	
BRECON		5				3	1
MONTGOMERY							
MEIRIONNYDD		6	4	1	3		
CAERNARFON		1		2			
Bardsey		1			1	2	
ANGLESEY		3	3		1	2	

Max.counts: DENBIGH: four at Fenn's Moss on 3 April and five here on 14 May.

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Hobby (n = 67)



PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus* **HEBOG TRAMOR**

Resident breeding species in all counties, but breeding population declined 12% between 2002 and 2014 to 249 pairs following a period of recovery since the 1960s. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	916	890
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Breeding: around 100 nests were reported, but many territories were checked and were unoccupied, especially in south Wales. Of those monitored, average productivity was 0.94 young/nest.

Information from bird reports (not complete surveys except Pembrokeshire): GWENT: nine breeding sites, including four in urban areas; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 20 of 36 occupied territories monitored by South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group, from which 15 pairs fledged 32 young; GOWER: bred at one site, possibly at another two; CARMARTHEN: bred at only two of 10 territories monitored by South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group; PEMBROKE: 41 territories occupied, from which 34 pairs fledged 27 young; CEREDIGION: a few breeding records along the coast; BRECON: 10 territories occupied of 18 checked, fledging eight young from six nests; MEIRIONNYDD: confirmed/probably bred at five nests, though only two had young; CAERNARFON: confirmed nesting at one site (Bardsey), probable at eight sites and possible at three; DENBIGH: 6-7 territories occupied, in which eggs were laid in four nests, fledging seven young; may also have bred in Wrexham Ind. Estate; FLINT: two confirmed breeding pairs.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* **PARACIT TORCHOG**

Naturalised population now well-established in parts of southern England and spreading northward, but not yet established in Wales.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	7	8
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

All records are single birds unless otherwise stated: GOWER: Swansea on 20 May; BRECON: Llangasty on 8 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Rhos Pt on 22 Aug.; ANGLESEY: regular in a Llangefni garden; DENBIGH: Wrexham on 24 April; Kinmel Bay on 2 Nov. (probably same bird seen in Flintshire that day); FLINT: four over Llanasa on 20 Jan.; Rhyl on 22 and 29 Sept. and 2 Nov.; Greenfield Valley on 27 Nov.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* **CIGYDD CEFNGOCH**

Rare migrant, on WRP list. 82 records since 1991.

GOWER: Cwm Ivy on 25 May and 26 June, presumed same at Whiteford NNR on latter date; CAERNARFON: female on Bardsey on 30 May; ANGLESEY: male at Llanfwrog on 27-28 May.

DAURIAN/TURKESTAN SHRIKE *Lanius isabellinus/phoenicuroides* **CIGYDD DAWRIA/LLWYDFELEN**

Rare vagrant from Caucasus/Turkestan, split from Isabelline Shrike on 1 January 2018 but first calendar year (1CY) birds cannot be separated in the field. On BBRC list, seven previous records in Wales.

ANGLESEY: 1CY at Breakwater CP on 15-16 Oct.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* **CIGYDD MAWR**

Scarce but annual winter visitor, occasionally recorded on passage.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	202	51
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

16 records is a typical showing, all were single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: Blaenserchan valley on 11-29 March; GOWER: Afan Forest on 5 and 7 Jan.; PEMBROKE: Plumstone Mountain on 26 March; BRECON: Talybont Res. on 20 Jan.; a Field Vole impaled on a hawthorn near Cwm Trawscoed on 15 Feb. suggests presence but no bird was seen; RADNOR: at three sites in Jan.-March; Ednol Hill from 11 Nov. to year end; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron on 1 Jan.; Cross Inn Forest in Jan. to April; Cwmystwyth in March; MEIRIONNYDD: Creigiau'r Barcut on 20 Jan.; Trum y Sarn on 24 March; DENBIGH: Clocaenog Forest on 11-26 March; Llyn Brenig on 29-30 Nov.

WOODCHAT SHRIKE *Lanius senator* **CIGYDD PENGOCH**

Scarce passage migrant, on WRP list. 122 previous records.

GOWER: 2CY male at Frog Moor, Reynoldston, on 26-29 Aug.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* **EURYN**

Scarce summer visitor, recorded in all counties and particularly in Pembrokeshire. Most records fall in May and June as expected for a species overshooting its continental breeding areas. On WRP list. 112 records since 1990.

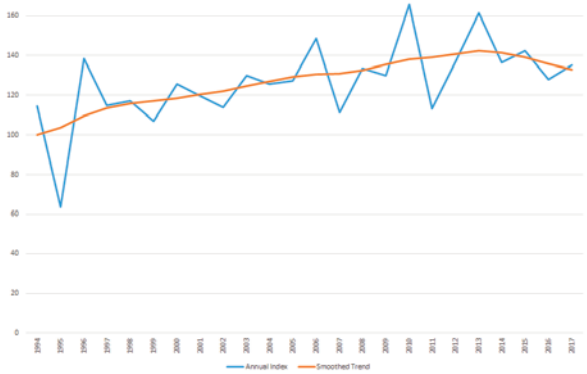
CAERNARFON: 2 CY male on Bardsey on 5 May (one had also been reported on 3rd).

JAY *Garrulus glandarius* **SGRECH Y COED**

Widespread resident, common in most deciduous woodland areas, least so in western coastal fringes; scarce in west Llŷn and much of Anglesey. Autumn/winter influxes from the east occur irregularly. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2532	2550
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	14%

Breeding Bird Survey: Jay in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Following a sustained increase in the breeding population, the Breeding Bird Survey has fallen back in recent years, but remains 33% higher than its 1994 level.

Counts of 10+: PEMBROKE: 17 at Teifi Marshes on 1 Jan.; 13 at Upton on 16 March; CAERNARFON: 10+ Hafod Lane, Bangor, in the autumn.

One at Rhoscolyn on 27 May was an unusual summer record on ANGLESEY away from the Menai Strait.

MAGPIE *Pica pica* **PIODEN**

Abundant and widespread resident; numbers still increasing. Wales Green listed.

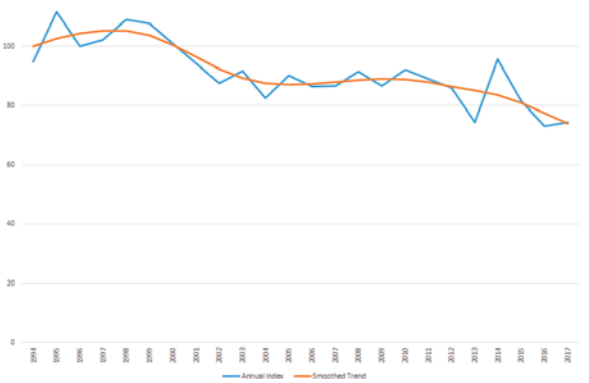
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	10650	9700
% of BirdTrack lists	58%	54%

The proportion of BirdTrack lists registering Magpie fell compared to 2016, the same direction as the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which is at its lowest level since recording began, 26% below the 1994 baseline.

The only site with comparable breeding data is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where 14 pairs fledged 22 young, probably an island record.

Counts of 20+: GOWER: 20 at Caldicot Castle on 10 Jan.; 20 at Abertysswg on 23 April; 25 in Pontypool on 2 Nov.; 22 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 6 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 32 roosted at Kenfig Pool on 25 Jan., 27 here on 2 Nov. and 29 on 19th; 32 in Cardiff on 10 Feb.; 23 in Cardiff Bay on 3 March; 20 in Cardiff on 4 March; 20 at Cosmeston Lakes CP in Nov. and Dec.; GOWER: 22 at Llansamlet Tip on 5 Jan.; 30 at Singleton Park, Swansea, on 1 March; CARMARTHEN: 92 fed on discarded takeaways at Cross Hands on 22 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 26 at Teifi Marshes on 1 Jan.; BRECON: 20 at Blaenclyn/Forest Lodge on 8 Feb.; 20 at Llanhamlach on 24 Dec.; CAERNARFON: max. count 46 on Bardsey in Oct. presumed to include migrants; ANGLESEY: 20 at Mynydd Parys on 4 Nov.; 40 south of Llangefni on 10 Dec.; FLINT: 73 roosted behind Rhyl college on 8 Jan.

Breeding Bird Survey: Magpie in Wales, 1994 - 2017



CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **BRAN GOESGOCH**

Resident in small numbers, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard (252-278 pairs in 2014). Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	868	900
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Breeding: numbers nesting inland, evident from totals in Meirionnydd, continue to decline as the fine short grass needed for optimum feeding is becoming overgrown with coarser grasses and *Juncus*. Figures in Pembrokeshire were slightly down on last year's record, but nonetheless it is the second-highest number of territories since monitoring began in 1992, while possible breeding was recorded in East Glamorgan for the first time.

	Occupied territories	*Nests*	*Nests from which young fledged*	*Min. no of young fledged*	*Young fledged/ successful nest*
GOWER	2	Probably bred			
PEMBROKE	79	66	51	127	2.5

Birds present on the Heritage Coast of E.GLAMORGAN included a group of six near Ogmore Caves on 2 July that showed food-soliciting behaviour but juveniles were not confirmed.

Ringing information from the Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, with additional data from Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory and monitoring conducted by RSPB/Natural Resources Wales.

	Nests[1]	*Broods ringed*	*Young ringed*	*Young/brood ringed*
CEREDIGION	21-31	9	26	2.9
MEIRIONNYDD	14-15	3	6	2.0
CAERNARFON	90-93	37[2]	95	2.6
ANGLESEY	39-42	17	52	3.1
DENBIGH	2			

[1]. Range shows min. (confirmed and probable pairs) to max. (with possible breeding pairs added).
[2]. In Caernarfonshire, mean brood sizes were calculated from full brood size where incomplete broods were ringed.

Other notable counts during May to Aug.: GOWER: 15 roosted at Lewes Castle on 27 July; PEMBROKE: 98-111 non-breeders recorded in 10 discrete flocks in spring, the highest number for several years;

CEREDIGION: up to 21 roosted at Wallog during Aug.; CAERNARFON: six feeding flocks of 20+ birds including an impressive 65 on Carreg y Gath, Cwm Caseg, on 24 July; six roosts of 20+ birds during Aug., largest 35 in the Nantlle Valley on 9 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 12 over Cemlyn on 31 May; 14 over Rhoscolyn on 23 July.

Monthly maximum counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Bardsey	20	21	24	21	21	43	41	30	29	38	22	26

Flocks outside the breeding season: E.GLAMORGAN: five at Dunraven Bay (Feb. and Oct.), Southerndown (March) and Porthcawl (Nov.); GOWER: 12 at Rhossili on 20 Feb., and 10 nearby on 2 March; 11 at Llanmadoc Hill on 2 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 89 at nine roosts, including 23 on Skomer in early Sept.; CEREDIGION: 17 between Llanrhystud and Aberystwyth on 15 April; MEIRIONNYDD: up to 45 roosted at a site near Aberdysynni in Jan./Feb.; CAERNARFON: flocks of 10-14 at Sychnant Pass, Little Orme, and Porth Ysgo in March/April; 35 near Pistyll on 14 Sept.; 25-30 in the Anafon valley on 5 Oct.; largest roost in Sep./Oct. was 38 at Trwyn y Gorlech; ANGLESEY: island-wide count in Feb. found 53 birds, of which 70% were on Holy Island; 16 on The Range on 4 Feb.; 32 at RSPB South Stack on 15 Feb.; 23 roosted in Church Bay in Nov. and Dec.; 22 roosted at Penmon Pt on 22 Dec.

Chough roost counts

Communal roost counts took place in north, west and mid Wales between 2014 and 2017 as a collaboration between the Cross and Stratford Chough Project, RSPB Cymru and Natural Resources Wales. Counts were timed to match the period of highest roost attendance based on past data (late August to early September), when roosts of pre-breeding adults are swelled by newly independent young, sometimes with breeding adults from territories that overlap communal roost sites. Most communal roost sites are coastal, but known inland roosts were also counted.

Counts covered 22-28 coastal and eight inland sites annually across the four years. An average of 288 Choughs were counted each year: 250 on the coast (range 220-308) and 38 inland (range 19-48). Roosts in coastal situations held an average of 10 birds (range 9-14), twice the average at inland roosts (5, range 2-6). The long-term roost count data, when combined with environmental data, have the potential to explain changes in roost use across 25 years. Linking such change in roost-use to changes in the environment can help to guide conservation actions.

Contributed by Ian Johnstone, RSPB Centre for Conservation Science

Ringing: a juvenile female EZ38764 (Blue 9U) that was ringed in north ANGLESEY in 2016 was recorded at several locations in E.GLAMORGAN from 9 Nov. 2016 to 22 March 2017, 224km from her nest, more than double the previous longest movement ever recorded in Wales. Remarkably, she reappeared on Anglesey, at Carmel Head, on 4 May 2017, remaining in the area at least to Feb. 2018.

Of young ringed by Cross & Stratford in 2017, only one juvenile dispersed more than 50km, a female (Yellow 4U) that was ringed as a nestling at Penmaenmawr quarry, CAERNARFON, and subsequently recorded roosting near Aberdysynni, MEIRIONNYDD, on 29 Oct. 2017, 73 km to the south.

JACKDAW *Coloeus monedula* **JAC-Y-DO**

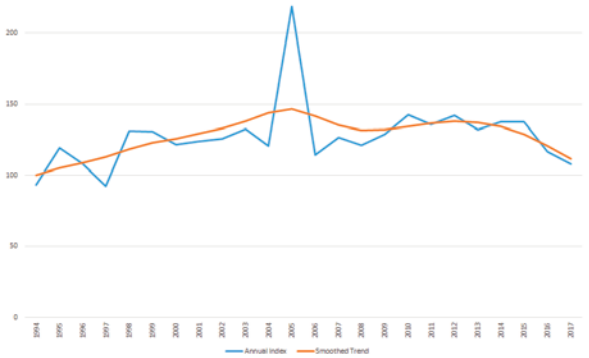
Abundant and widespread resident. Increasing. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	9473	9364
% of BirdTrack lists	51%	52%

Notwithstanding the 'bump' in 2005, the Breeding Bird Survey index has been very stable and is currently 28% above its 1994 level.

Max. monthly counts from sites holding 300 or more at least once: GWENT: 1000 roosted in Tredegar Park, 800 over Llanyravon and 300+ at Pontllanfraith in the first winter period; 350 over Clydach Gorge in July; in the second winter period 1000 roosted at Dingestow, 1000 in Brynmawr and 2000 at Newport's Great Traston Meadows; E.GLAMORGAN: 1000+ regularly over Pant-yr-Awel (max. 3000 on 22 Jan.); 1000+ at Newcastle Hill on 18 Jan.; 1400 at Dowlais Top on 1 March; 500 at Penywern Pond on 9 Nov.; 1200 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 9 Dec.; GOWER: 1000+ over Neath and up to 1500 over Baglan during both winter periods; *c.*400 over Taibach on 2 March; *c.*300 at Moor Corner Farm on 30 Dec.; *c.*400 at West Cross on 30 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 700 at Pembrey Burrows on 23 Sept.; *c.*300 at Pwll on 11 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 500 at Newport on 3 Jan. and 6 Nov.; 500 at Castle Martin Range on 22 Jan.; 500 at Lydstep on 13 Feb. and 850 here on 17 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 300+ at Caerhun on 14 Oct. and 26 Nov.; 430 on Bardsey on 30 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 400 south of Llangefni on 15 Jan.; 300 in Newborough Forest on 5 Feb.; 500 at Church Island on 26 Nov.

Breeding Bird Survey: Jackdaw in Wales, 1994 - 2017



C.m.monedula ('**Nordic Jackdaw**' / '**Jac-y-do Llychlyn**')

On WRP, 21 previous records.

PEMBROKE: two individuals showing characteristics of this form at Stackpole on 13 Nov.

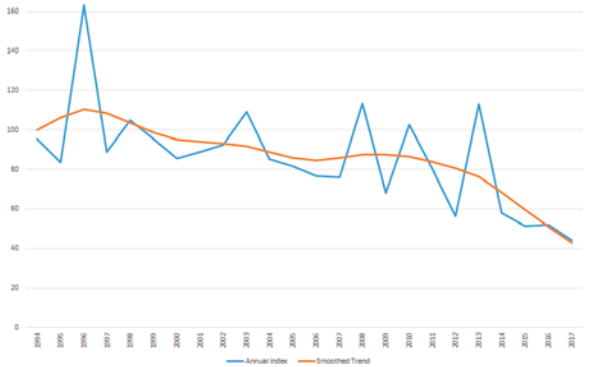
ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* **YDFRAN**

Plentiful and widespread resident, breeding mainly below 300m. above sea level. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1889	2106
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	11%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is at its lowest point since the scheme began, a shocking 57% below its 1994 level, a story that is going under most birder's radar. This is an obvious species for local bird clubs to organise counts, and well done to birders in Gower, whose monitoring showed a 7% decline in just one year.

Breeding Bird Survey: Rook in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Breeding: GWENT: 115 AON in six rookeries; E.GLAMORGAN: 92 AON at six rookeries (largest 32 at St Nicholas); GOWER: 583 AON in 32 rookeries, largest 64 at Lagadranta Farm (*cf.* 626 AON at 31 rookeries); BRECON: 157 AON in nine rookeries (largest 37 at Llandefaelog Church); MEIRIONNYDD: two rookeries counted contained 78 and 49 AON; CAERNARFON: 129 AON at five sites (largest 61 at Plas-yn-Rhiw); DENBIGH: rookeries in Eglwyseg and Horseshoe Pass contained 99 nests, the highest total for eight years.

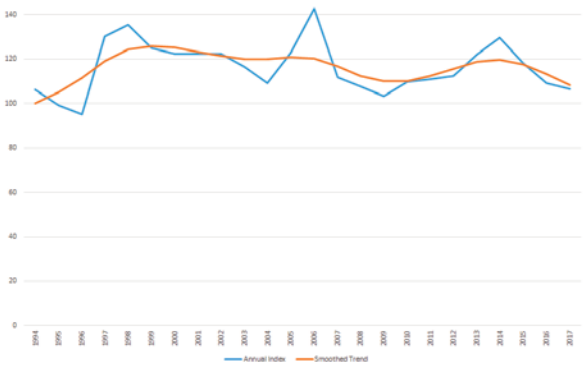
Counts of 100+ away from rookeries: GWENT: 100 at Llandevenny on 17 Aug.; 200 at The Bryn on 27 Oct.; 200 at Bryngwyn on 28 Dec.; GOWER: 100 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 5 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 500 at Newport on 6 Nov.; 500 at St Dogmael's on 2 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 136 at RAF Valley on 31 May; DENBIGH: 144 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 4 Sept.; 200 at Nant-y-Glyn on 23 Sept. and 9 Dec.; FLINT: 100 at Pentrehobin, Mold, on 27 Jan.; 134 at Rhyl on 23 May; 172 at Connah's Quay NR on 1 Dec.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone* **BRAN DYDDYN**

Abundant resident and partial migrant throughout Wales. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	13024	12628
% of BirdTrack lists	70%	70%

Breeding Bird Survey: Carrion Crow in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been fairly steady since around 2000.

The only site with comparable breeding information is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where 13 pairs bred for the third consecutive year and fledged 18 young.

Counts of 100+: GOWER: monthly counts at Blackpill exceeded 100 on dates in Jan., May, July, Aug. (max. 194) and Oct.; 100 on Rhossili beach on 9 April; 197 off Penclawdd on 29 July; 101 at Dalton's Pt on 7 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 239 at Kidwelly Quay on 6 Aug.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* **BRAN LWYD**

Irregular wanderer to Wales, mainly in winter and most frequently to coastal areas. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	104	72
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

It is hard to know how many individuals are involved in the records below, but it would seem that at least 50 birds were present, mostly in the first winter period and presumably from Ireland given the western distribution.

Single birds: GOWER: Rhossili beach on 9 April; PEMBROKE: Aber Mawr on 9 Feb.; Skokholm on 22 March; St Bride's Bay on 16 April; Pen Beri Res. on 8 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Llanddeiniol on 17 April; Aberaeron on 23 April; Ynyslas/Ynys Tachwedd on 4-20 May; MEIRIONNYDD: Tywyn on 19 April; CAERNARFON: Llandudno on 1 Jan.; Moel Faban on 26 Jan.; Bardsey on 23 March; Great Orme on 28 March; six on Bardsey in April and seven in May; ANGLESEY: Llanfachraeth from 1 Jan. to 9 April; Pont Marquis on 9 Jan.; Cemlyn on 19 Feb.; Wylfa Head on 15 March; Holyhead on 23 March; Cemlyn on 8 April; Rhoscolyn on 15 April; Carmel Head on 21 May; Cemlyn on 9 June; The Range on 25 Sept. and 8 Oct.; Traeth Llanddwyn on 30 Nov.; Newborough Forest on 24 Nov.; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 28 April.

Multiple records: PEMBROKE: two at Pen Caer on 30 March; two on Skomer on 17 April; CAERNARFON: two birds on Bardsey on four dates in April and on 9 May, and three birds on 1 May; ANGLESEY: three at RSPB South Stack on 26 April.

Probable or certain hybrids (x Carrion Crow): CAERNARFON: Morfa Madryn from 24 June to 22 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Newborough on 6 March; Cemlyn on 8 April; Cors Bodeilio on 22 Aug.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* **CIGFRAN**

Resident, distributed throughout the whole of Wales. Numbers are very high in many of the uplands and coastal-cliff areas. Wales Green listed.

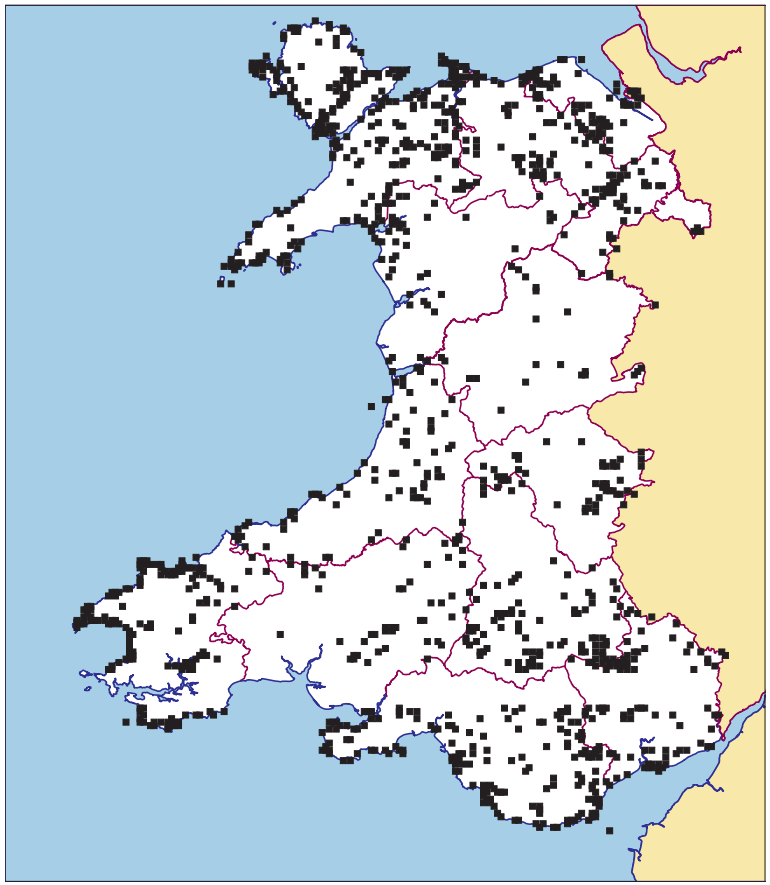
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3848	4200
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	21%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales (on page 134) has plateauxed during this decade, 36 points below its 2004 high but still 44% higher than its 1994 level.

Breeding study: DENBIGH: 25 young fledged from nine nests in one study area (2.78/nest); in Glyndyfrdwy-Rossett study area, 19 of 23 territories were occupied but eggs were laid in only 11 (average 2.3 young/nest, *cf.* 3.1 in 2016).

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Raven (n = 1199)

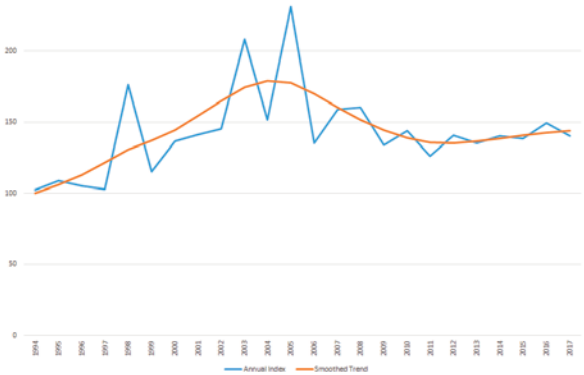


Roost counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.GLAMORGAN												
Blaencanaid	133	65	116	168	277	401	330	154	129	178	412	112
ANGLESEY												
Newborough Forest		300								400		

Counts of 10+: GOWER: 40 displayed above Coed y Bwnydd on 21 Sept.; 15 in the Llandegfedd area and 13 around Cwmavon (no dates supplied); E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Pant-yr-Awel in Jan. and 17 here in March; 12 at Cwmbach & Cefnpennar on 21 March; 17 at Llangynwyd on 12 April; GOWER: 12 at Leason Pill saltmarsh on 3 Jan.; 20 at Rhossili on 15 Jan.; 21 at Wernffrwd on 9 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Cefn Sidan on 12 Sept.; 16 at Talley on 23 Nov. and 19 here on 16 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 30 at Strumble Head on 9 Oct.; 28 at Carew Cheriton on 13 March; BRECON: 11 near Llednant on 29 Aug.; 30 over Garreg Fawr on 25 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 at Cynwyd on 29 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 18 on Bardsey on 9 March, 14 here on 23rd and 13 on 2 April; 12 at Bwlch-y-ddeufan on 24 July; 12 at Rhiw on 13 Sept.; 29 on Bardsey on 12 Sept., 14 here on 17th, 16 on 18th, 26 on 10 Oct. and 24 on 19th; 15 on the Great Orme on 25 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 13 at Pont Marquis on 2 Jan.; DENBIGH: roost at Llechrydau above the Ceiriog Valley peaked at 160 on 16 Feb.

Breeding Bird Survey: Raven in Wales, 1994 - 2017



WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus* **CYNFFON SIDAN**

Scarce winter visitor.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	159	269
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

There were many records in the first winter period, carrying over from the large influx in late 2016, but none in the second winter period.

All records: GWENT: 12 in Bulwark on 7-10 Jan.; one, increasing to seven, in Pontypool from 12 to 30 Jan.; 12 near Croesyceiliog on 15 Jan.; 3-6 in Cwmbran from 16-28 Jan.; three in Monmouth on 19 Jan. increasing to six on 20th-21st; eight at Cefn Ila, Usk, on 13 Feb. were present intermittently to 3 March; 12 at Duffryn, Newport, on 15 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: three at St Mellons on 3 Jan. and 24 here on 9 Jan.; one at Pwll-y-Waun, Porthcawl, on 4 Jan.; one at Bridgend on 7 Jan.; up to 64 in Newport Road, Cardiff, on 6-14 Jan. and two nearby at Roath on 6th; up to 26 at Barry on 11-15 Jan.; two at Merthyr Tydfil on 17 Jan.; three at Cardiff Bay on 8-10 Feb.; GOWER: 14 at Cwmrhydyceirw/Morriston on 15 Jan. and 25 here on 28th; two in Swansea city centre/marina on 18 Jan. and up to 33 here during 20-29 Jan.; up to 35 in Llansamlet on 20-29 Jan.; nine at Neath on 17 Jan. and eight here on 24th; 8-11 at Port Talbot on 20-22 Jan.; present between Cwmavon and Bryn on 5 Feb.; 12 at Dyffryn in the Afan Valley on 17 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: singles at Brynaman and Carmarthen on 5 Jan. and at Burry Port on 13 Jan.; PEMBROKE: one at Haverfordwest on 20 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 20 at Cwmystwyth and one at Llanon on 21 Jan.; RADNOR: at 12 sites between Jan. and March with a few remaining into early April; highest counts were 75 at Newbridge-on-Wye; 60 at Llandrindod Wells; 70 at Knighton; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Llan Ffestiniog on 4 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: two in Four Crosses on 1 Jan.; 20-30 at Wern on 2-3 Jan., decreasing to one on 15 Feb.; up to 30 at Machynlleth on 3-6 Jan.; many at Newtown sites from 2 to 30 Jan., max. *c.*50 on 27 Jan.; one in Montgomery on 14 Jan.; 1+ at Guilsfield on 15 Jan.; 14 at Churchstoke on 17 Jan.; three at Abermule on 18 Jan.; four at Kingswood on 21 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 30 in Llandudno on 1 Jan., two on 2nd and three on 20th; two at Beddgelert on 2 Jan.; 22 at Aber Ogwen on 15 Jan.; DENBIGH: flocks of 30 to 99 from 11 sites during Jan. to March including 190 in Denbigh on 7 Jan.; 50-160 at Kinmel Bay on 2-12 Jan.; FLINT: 40 in Mold on 1 Jan.; 30-64 in Rhyl on 7-9 Jan.

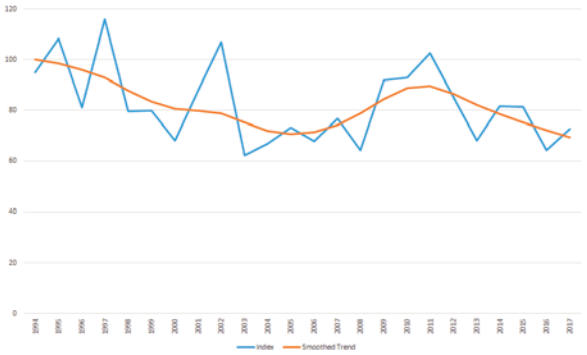
Ringing: E.GLAMORGAN: one bird from the Newport Road flock (above) was colour-ringed in New Scone, Perthshire, on 15 Dec. 2016.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater* **TITW PENDDU**

Widespread and fairly common resident. Most numerous in conifer woodlands. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3092	3571
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	19%

Breeding Bird Survey: Coal Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The trend in Breeding Bird Survey indices varies considerably across the UK, but that for Wales has fallen the most, by 30% since 1994, perhaps reflecting a change in forestry management away from large blocks of plantation conifers.

Counts of 10+: GWENT: 12 at feeders in Llanyrafon and 15 at Wyesham in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Lavernock Pt and 10 at adjacent Lavernock LNR on 17 Oct.; 12 at Pant-yr-Awel in Dec.; GOWER: 21 at Vile/Rhossili on 9 Oct.; 16 at Mewslade Valley on 15 Oct.; 11 in Margam Park on 19 Nov.; BRECON: 30 in Brecon on 6 Feb.; 20 in Held Wood on 31 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 15 in Rhiw on 19 Nov.; DENBIGH: 11 records of 10 or more, max. 17 near Marford Quarry in late Dec.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris* **TITW'R WERN**

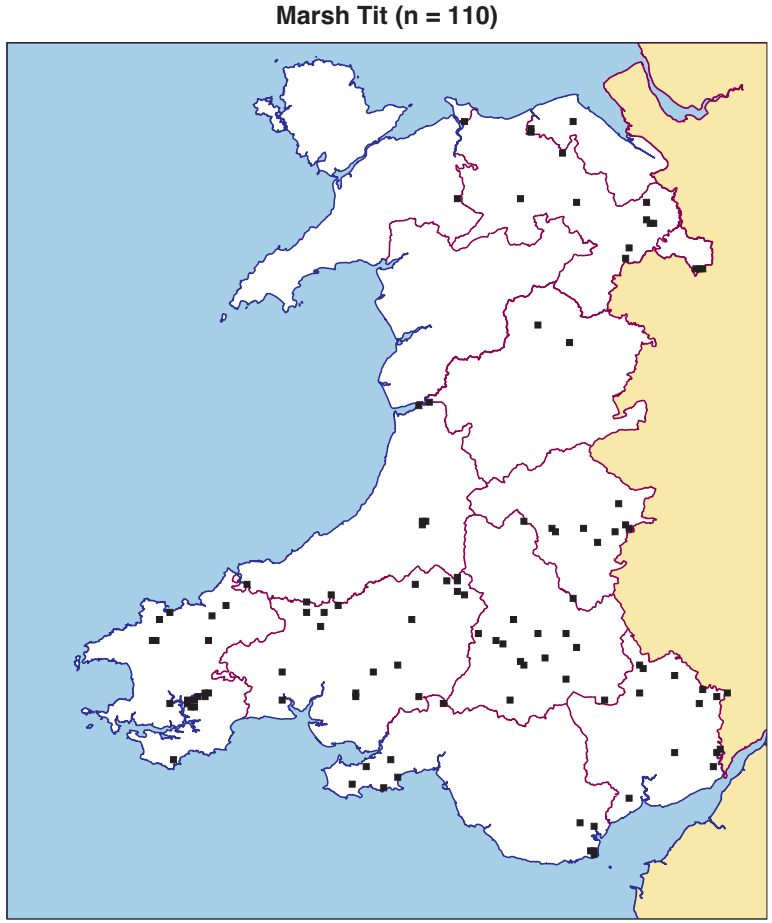
Resident species, strongly sedentary, widespread but patchily distributed in the eastern half of Wales and in Pembrokeshire. Scarce or absent in other western and northern areas. Declining across its range. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	245	295
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Eight confirmed nests, 15 probable and a further four possible nesting pairs; all were south of a line from Llanrhystud (Ceredigion) to Llanigon (Brecon), although there was a scattering of records in the north outside the breeding season.

Breeding season (mid April to June): GWENT: recorded at Penallt, Pontypool, Osbaston and Wyndcliff with fledged young seen at the latter two; E.GLAMORGAN: bred in Casehill Woods, Michaelston-le-Pit; GOWER: adult and juvenile in an Upper Killay garden on 18 June; PEMBROKE: three pairs nested at Llanychaer; single pairs and/or breeding evidence at Canston Wood, Toch Wood/Blackpool Mill area,

All BirdTrack records in 2017:



Bluestone, Priskilly Forest and Pengelli; CEREDIGION: pairs at Coed Y Foel, Llandysul, Longwood Bettws Bledrws, Llanerchaeron, Cwm Wyre and Llanrhystud; BRECON: singles in spring at Allt Wood, Llanigon, Aber and near Pencelli Castle; pair visited nest holes at Penstar, Llanvihangel nant-bran, on 25 April; two at The Cwm and at Sarnau Pools throughout the year.

Other records were all single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: during Jan. to March, seen at Priory Grove, Penallt, Blackcliff/Wyndcliff, Chepstow area, Osbaston, Lower Minnetts Wood, Cwmbran Boating Lake, Pontypool and Brynmawr; later in the year also seen in Strawberry Cottage Wood at Stanton, Pen-y-Fal, Cefn Ila, Gwern Ddu, Llandegfedd Res., Llanyrafon and Lettravane Farm; E.GLAMORGAN: Cosmeston Lakes CP on 6 Jan. and 24 Feb.; Pant-yr-Awel on 11 Jan. and 11 April; Hamadryad Park on 16 Jan.; Forest Fawr on 7 Feb.; Garth Mountain on 7 April; Cogan Wood on 3 Nov., 15 and 24 Dec.; Bute Park on 11 Nov.; Fairwater, Cardiff, on 21 Nov.; Pant-yr-Awel on 29 Nov. and 2 Dec.; GOWER: 1-2 at 10 localities including Clyne Wood and by R.Tawe below Garnswllt; three in Resolven on 6 April; CARMARTHEN: Trimsaran, Llyn Llech Owain, Llansteffan, Nantgeredig, Dryslwyn and Allt Rhyd y Groes; PEMBROKE: recorded in at least 26 1-km squares; CEREDIGION: four localities in addition to those listed above; BRECON: 1-2 birds at 12 locations in Jan./Feb.; singles at two sites near Libanus and at Bwt-y

Bwyddyn in July; one or two at 17 locations between Sept. and Dec.; MONTGOMERY: noted as widely distributed, but in small numbers, in mature woodland; MEIRIONNYDD: Pont Croesor on 22 Aug. and 29 Aug.; CAERNARFON: one near Llyn Elsi on 18 July; DENBIGH: 29 singles; two at Alyn Waters CP, Bodelwyddan Castle, Chirk Castle, Felin Puleston near Wrexham, Fenn's Moss and Lleweni Hall at Bodfari; four at Pwllglas near Ruthin on 25 Sept.; FLINT: one at Llyn Helyg on 16 Jan. and 20 Nov.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus* **TITW'R HELYG**

Thinly distributed resident, most frequent in south and east Wales and absent from most of north-west Wales (67 pairs in 2016). Declining across its range. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	101	72
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding season (April to June): GWENT: one at Tredean Wood on 9 June; singles on several dates in Wentwood; E.GLAMORGAN: single singing birds in April at Brynna Woods, Taff Bargoed, Parc Penallta and Bute Park; CARMARTHEN: pair bred at Penclacwydd; also recorded at Morfa Berwig, Ffrwd Fen, Llyn Llech Owain, Cross Hands, Capel Seion and Figyn Common; PEMBROKE: pair bred at Llandilo raising 4+ young; singles at Strumble Head, Rosebush, Glynaeron, Pantmaenog, Trecwn and Puncheston; CEREDIGION: records from Denmark Farm, Cross Inn forest, Cors Caron, Falcondale Lake, Coed Dolgoed and Clywedog plantation; BRECON: breeding confirmed in Llanwrthwl; one at Sarnau Pools; RADNOR: confirmed breeding at nine sites; MONTGOMERY: Dyfnant Forest and Lake Vyrnwy held at least 15 territories, with three pairs using specially designed nest boxes and two successfully fledging 12 chicks; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Bron Banog, Clocaenog, on 2 April; DENBIGH: two at Froncysyllte on 6 April; one ringed at Bwlchddar on 15 April; FLINT: one at Afonwen on 26 May.

Outside the breeding season (singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: Llanthony Woods on 20 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Garwnant Visitor Centre on 5 Jan., 23 Aug., 15 Oct. and 2 Dec., and three here on 12 March; Parc Penallta on 15 March; two at Garwnant northern clearfell on 25 Oct.; near Llwyn-on Res. on 25 Oct.; Coed Taf Fawr/Cefn Sychnant on 30 Oct.; Penmoelallt on 2 and 8 Nov.; GOWER: Mount Pleasant on 8 March; Shaws Wood, Gowerton, on 6 Dec.; BRECON: wildbird crop plot at Doliago Farm, Llanwrthwl, on two days in Nov.; also at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl and Sarnau Pools; MONTGOMERY: Rhos-y-Brithdir on 21 March; Cors Dyfi on 1 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Coed-tŷ Res. on 24 July; DENBIGH: ringed at Bwllchddar on 27 Aug.; three in Clocaenog Forest on 18 Sept.; FLINT: ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 30 July and another on 6 Aug.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus* **TITW TOMOS LAS**

Abundant resident species, most numerous in deciduous woodland but not restricted to this preferred habitat, especially in winter when it is more numerous. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	9701	9678
% of BirdTrack lists	52%	53%

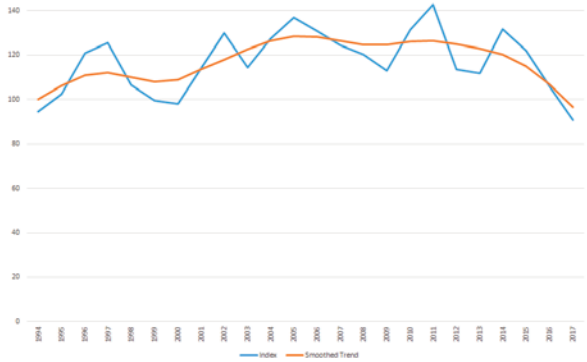
The Breeding Bird Survey index in Wales (on page 138) has fallen markedly in recent years, so that it's now 3% below its 1994 level, and over 25 points lower than in 2012.

Breeding information for specific study areas suggests good productivity: GOWER: 56 pairs in Cwm Clydach laid eggs of which 45 pairs fledged 271 young (4.8 young/nest, an improvement on 2016); CARMARTHEN: 20 nest boxes used at Halfway where clutch size was higher than earlier years but mean number fledged per successful nest has remained consistent; MEIRIONNYDD: 55 young fledged (from 57 eggs) from five boxes at Coed Crafnant, Pen y Bont (11 young/nest); 92 young fledged (from 104 eggs) from 12 boxes at Gwaith Powdwr (7.6 young/nest); DENBIGH & FLINT: 123 young fledged from 134 nesting attempts at nine sites (6.39 young/nest compared to mean of 4.74 in 2004-16); in Eglwyseg

Valley, 27 pairs fledged 178 young (6.6 young/nest, *cf.* 2.7 in 2016).

Migration: PEMBROKE: large autumn passage on Skomer with max. 32 on 25 Oct.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blue Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2017

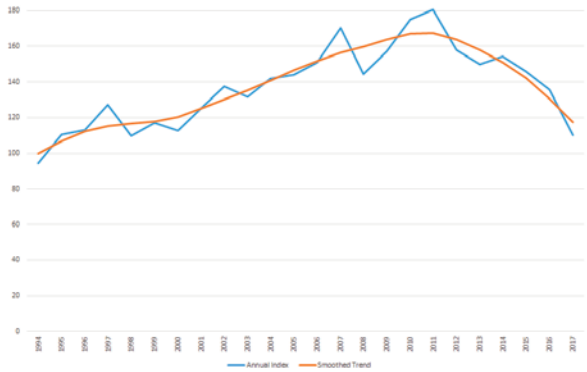


GREAT TIT *Parus major* **TITW MAWR**

Widespread and numerous species throughout Wales up to approximately 500m above sea level. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	6912	7400
% of BirdTrack lists	36%	40%

Breeding Bird Survey: Great Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has shown a decline since 2010 although the BirdTrack reporting rate bounced back towards its 2015 level. Clutch- and brood size are both lower than in the late 1960s, leading to a significant reduction in the ratio of juveniles to adults (44% lower in 2015 than in 1984).

Breeding information for specific study areas indicates a productive breeding season: GOWER: 21 pairs fledged 106 young (5.0 young/nest) at Cwm Clydach; CARMARTHEN: seven nests produced a mean of 8.28 eggs and 5.4 young/nest at Halfway; MEIRIONNYDD: 44 young fledged from seven boxes at Gwaith Powdwr (6.29 young/nest); DENBIGH & FLINT: 420 young fledged from 83 nesting attempts at six sites (5.06 young/nest compared to mean 4.11 during 2004-16).

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus* **TITW BARFOG**

Breeds at Newport Wetlands Reserve; otherwise a rare autumn and winter visitor to reedbed areas. Wales Amber listed. On WRP list for records away from Gwent; 13 previous records.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	32	27
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: survey recorded six or seven territories, consistent with 2015 and 2016; recently fledged young were seen in family parties on three occasions on 19 May and 26 May and on 29 July, the latter presumably a second brood.

Max. monthly counts at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth):

Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
7	3	2	7	17	2	7	1	14	5	2	2

Non-breeding: MONTGOMERY: one at Dolydd Hafren from 31 Jan. to 15 Feb.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea* **EHEDYDD Y COED**

Former breeding species; occurs in small numbers each winter.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	12	1
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

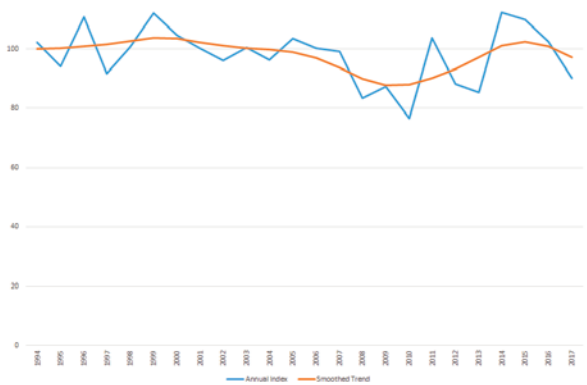
E.GLAMORGAN: two at Nantyffyllon, Maesteg, on 26 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one on the Great Orme on 12 March; one on Bardsey on 25 Oct., with presumably the same bird heard on 26th.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis* **EHEDYDD**

Widespread but declining breeding species; abundant passage migrant in autumn and winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2202	2354
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	12%

Breeding Bird Survey: Skylark in Wales, 1994 - 2017



In contrast to a decline across the other UK nations, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is stable in the long-term, less than 3% below its 1994 baseline and 12% above its 2010 low.

Large counts (100+): GWENT: 150 at Pen y lan on 6 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 200 at Lavernock Pt on 18 Oct.; 300 at Norton Farm on 12 Dec.; GOWER: 100 in the Vile, Rhossili on 8 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 100+ at Trehill Farm, Marloes, on 1 Jan.; 150+ at the Deer Park on 1 Jan. and 100 here on 2nd; peak counts on Skomer included 143 on 6 Oct. and 800+ on 25 Oct.; 146 over on Skokholm on 26 Oct. and 273 on 28th; CAERNARFON: autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 121 on 6 Oct., 238 on 25th and 184 on 26th.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris* **EHEDYDD Y TRAETH**

Scarce passage migrant or winter visitor; On WRP list. 79 records since 1991.

ANGLESEY: one at RSPB South Stack on 27 March.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia* **GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD**

Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties, increasing. Passage migrant in spring and autumn. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1474	1416
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	7%

Breeding colonies (AON): GWENT: R.Monnow at Oldcastle, Altyrynys, Llangua, Llanrothal and Monmouth; R.Usk at Abergavenny and Gobion; on the R.Lwyd at Llanyrafon; E.GLAMORGAN: R.Ogmore near Verville and in Bridgend; Cardiff Bay; Quakers Yard; Caerphilly Castle moat; Parc Taf Bargoed; R.Ely at Peterston Moors and Abercynon; GOWER: 294 AON at two sites on the R.Loughor; 12 AON on the R.Egel; 35 AON at two sites on the R.Tawe; seven AON at two sites on the R.Clydach; 10 AON on Melincourt Brook; 10 AON at two sites on the R.Neath; 15-18 AON on the R.Dulas; four AON at a site on the R.Afan and bred at another site; 18 AON near Kenfig Castle; CEREDIGION: *c.*60 AON at Abercoed, Tregaron; 40 AON at Pant pool; PEMBROKE: bred at Aber Mawr and Freshwater West; BRECON: 40-60 AON at two colonies on the R.Wye at Glasbury; 220 AON on the R.Usk between Newton Farm and Pencelli; four birds over the R.Wye below Llanwrthwl and five on the R.Gwesyn indicated small active colonies; MEIRIONNYDD: 17 AON at Maentwrog; 15-30 AON at Llanfendigiad/Tonfannau; 10 AON at The Ranges; 90 AON at Mochras Harbour; CAERNARFON: 15 AON at Porth Neigwl; 2-3 AON at Porth Ceiriad; 100 AON at Morfa Nefyn; 1-2 AON at Afonwen; colonies also near Llanrwst (R.Conwy) and Bont Fechan (R.Dwyfor); ANGLESEY: colonies at Traeth Lleiniog, Hen Borth, Cemlyn and Rhosneigr; DENBIGH: probably bred at five locations but confirmed at only one; FLINT: probably bred at two locations.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	11 March	Newport Wetlands		4 Oct.	Caerwent
E.GLAMORGAN	**6 March**	**Lisvane Reservoir**		8 Oct.	Peterston Moors
GOWER	11 March	Oxwich Marsh		3 Sept.	Eglwys Nunydd Res.
CARMARTHEN	7 March	Pwll fishing lakes		19 Oct.	Carmarthen
PEMBROKE	8 March	Llys y Fran Reservoir		**3 Nov.**	**Fishguard**
CEREDIGION	10 March	Teifi estuary/marsh			
BRECON	21 March	Llangorse Lake		3 Sept.	Llangorse
MONTGOMERY	12 March	Dolydd Hafren		27 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	27 March	Ynys Crossing		14 Sept.	Penrhyndeudraeth
CAERNARFON	11 March	Dinas Dinlle		26 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	12 March	Rhoscolyn & Cors Crigyll		7 Oct.	Traeth Lligwy
DENBIGH	11 March	RSPB Conwy		15 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	12 March	Rhyl brickworks		12 Sept.	Hendre

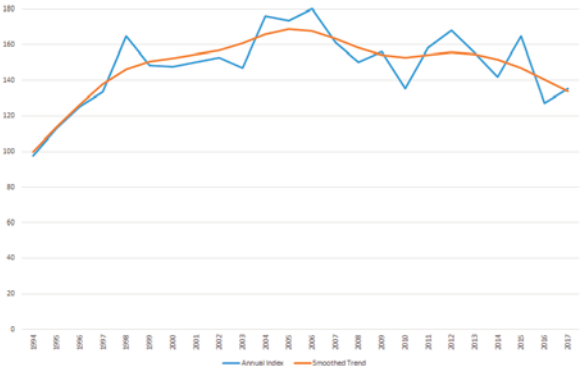
Large counts (100+): GWENT: 100 on the R.Usk in Abergavenny on 9 April; 186 at Gobion on 9 April; 1000 at Llandegfedd Res. on 10 April; 420 off Goldcliff Pt on 8 July; 200 southwest over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 9 July, 400 here on 15th, 120 each on 9 and 26 Aug.; 200 off Goldcliff Pt on 25 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Cardiff Bay on 27-28 March increasing to 200 on 30th, 180 here on 1 April and 200 at Kenfig Pool on 2nd; 100 at Cardiff Bay on 8 Sept.; GOWER: 104 over Heol Cae'r Bont on 1 April; 100 over Middleton Farm on 27 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 100+ at Teifi Marshes on 1 April; 254 at Skomer on 9 April; CEREDIGION: 300 at Cors Fochno on 11 April; BRECON: 400 at Llangorse Lake on 1 April, 800 here on 9th and hundreds ahead of a weather front on 30th; pre-roost flock of 500 at Llangorse Lake on 8 July; MONTGOMERY: 100+ at Pwll Penarth on 26 April and at Dolydd Hafren on many dates between April and July; DENBIGH: 100 at RSPB Conwy on 12 April; 100 at Gresford Flash on 13, 17 and 26 April; FLINT: 110 at Gronant on 9 July and 500 here on 19th.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica* **GWENNOL**

Widely distributed and common summer visitor, and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	5272	5273
% of BirdTrack lists	26%	27%

Breeding Bird Survey: Swallow in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The gradual downward trend in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales continues from its 2005 peak: 2017 was another 7% lower than 2016. However the index remains 33% above its 1994 level. Wet weather early in the 2017 season accounted for low nest success of first broods.

The only comparable nesting data came from: CAERNARFON: 15 pairs fledged 54 young on Bardsey (mean 3.6 young/nest, lower than the 10 year mean); DENBIGH: 19 pairs nested in Valle Crucis study area (*cf.* 16 in 2016) but clutches and number fledged were lower than usual.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**10 March**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		1 Nov.	Pontypool
E.GLAMORGAN	13 March	Cardiff Bay		5 Nov.	Cosmeston Lakes & Penarth Head
GOWER	19 March	Waunarlwydd		25 Oct.	Three Cliffs Bay
CARMARTHEN	28 March	Penclacwydd		25 Oct.	Kidwelly Quay
PEMBROKE	12 March	Teifi Marshes		**4 Dec.**	**Stackpole**
CEREDIGION	22 March	Mwnt		12 Oct.	Maesllyn Pool
BRECON	28 March	Pipton		4 Oct.	Trallong & Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	28 March	Cors Dyfi		8 Oct.	Berriew
MEIRIONNYDD	31 March	Pont Croesor		18 Oct.	Groeslwyd
CAERNARFON	11 March	Dinas Dinlle		7 Nov.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	28 March	Cemaes Bay		9 Oct.	RAF Valley
DENBIGH	29 March	Rhuthun		6 Oct.	Moel Famau
FLINT	28 March	Bagillt		30 Sept.	Bagillt

Large spring passage counts (300+): PEMBROKE: 290 over Skomer on 16 April; CEREDIGION: 500 at Ynyslas on 6 April; 450 at Llanrhystud on 15 April.

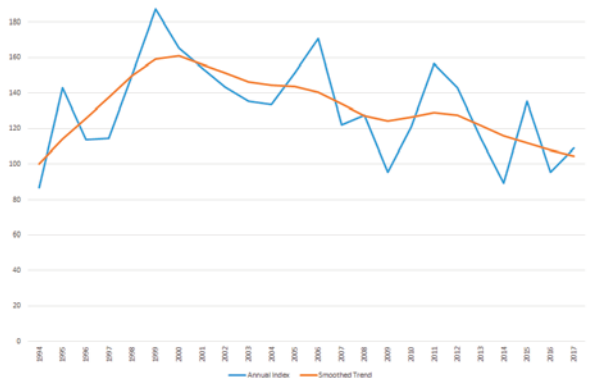
Return passage (300+): GWENT: 100s through Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 Sept.; 100s southeast over Bedwas on 18 Sept.; GOWER: 17,000 east over Rhossili Bay on 18 Sept.; 9000+ in three hours east towards Mumbles Head on 18 Sept. and *c.*4500 in 1.5 hours on 19th; CARMARTHEN: *c.*750 roosted at Pembrey Burrows on 12 July; *c.*300 east over Pwll in 30 minutes on 17 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 1000+ an hour at Pen Anglas on 19 Sept.; 300 at the Gann est. on 4 Aug.; 200 at St Dogmaels on 28 Aug.; 3000 over Skomer on 2 Sept., 17,400 on 18th and 7000 on 25th; 545 over Skokholm on 14 Sept. and 698 on 27th; 200+ at Nolton on 18 Sept.; 450 at Bosherston on 25 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 590 past Rhiw on 19 Sept.; peaks on Bardsey were 386 on 13 Aug., 896 on 19 Sept. and 546 on 26th; ANGLESEY: 1000 roosted at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 29 Aug. and 9 Sept.; DENBIGH/FLINT: 1500 at Gronant Dunes on 19 July, 350 here on 23rd, 400 on 24th and 300 on 22 Aug.; FLINT: 300 at Bagillt on 20 June.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum* **GWENNOL Y BONDO**

Summer visitor, well distributed and locally common. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2618	2466
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	12%

Breeding Bird Survey: House Martin in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Having reached a peak in 2000, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been falling throughout this century, and is now almost back at its 1994 level.

Breeding: GWENT: nests at 20+ sites, including five with 10 to 24 AON; E.GLAMORGAN: 34 sites including large colonies at Windsor Quay, Cardiff (21 AON), Brynfynnon Inn, Llanwonno (18 AON), Penarth town centre (14 AON) and Penarth marina (75 AON); GOWER: bred at 26+ sites; PEMBROKE: bred at 17+ sites; BRECON: nests at nine sites; MEIRIONNYDD: nests at eight sites, the largest 24 AON at Pont Aber Geirw; CAERNARFON: nests at 10 sites; DENBIGH: bred at several sites; FLINT: breeding confirmed at two sites.

Earliest and latest dates by county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	26 March	Peterstone Wentlooge		8 Oct.	Collister Pill
E.GLAMORGAN	15 March	Rudry Common		22 Oct.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	28 March	Swansea Vale		27 Sept.	Port Talbot
CARMARTHEN	13 April	Llanedi		2 Oct.	Parc Myrddin, Carmarthen
PEMBROKE	**12 March**	**Tenby**		13 Nov.	Lydstep
CEREDIGION	7 April	Clarach		12 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	16 March	Hay on Wye		3 Oct.	The Cwm & Trallong
MONTGOMERY	23 March	Cors Dyfi		1 Oct.	Llanidloes
MEIRIONNYDD	29 March	Pont Croesor		14 Sept.	Penrhyndeudraeth
CAERNARFON	2 April	Bardsey		6 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	15 March	Breakwater CP, Holyhead		22 Oct.	Llyn Rhos Ddu
DENBIGH	2 April	Ysbyty Ifan		2 Oct.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	10 April	Flint		**14 Nov.**	**Rhyl brickworks**

Large counts (200+): GWENT: 100s over The Bryn on 10 and 12 Sept. and at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 15 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 250 at Rudry Common on 29 Aug.; 250 at Ogmore est. on 3 Sept.; GOWER: 200+ with Swallows and Swifts between Llanrhidian and Landimore on 11 June; 500+ at Oxwich Marsh on 27 Aug. (104 ringed here); PEMBROKE: *c*.500 passed Skomer on 25 Sept; BRECON: 250 over Llangorse Lake on 9 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 210 at Rhiw on 19 Sept.; 272 on Bardsey on 26 Sept.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica* **GWENNOL DINGOCH**

Scarce vagrant from southern Europe, usually a spring overshoot. On WRP list; 25 previous records.

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 28 March.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* **TELOR CETTI**

Scarce but increasing breeding resident in mid and south Wales and on Anglesey (257 singing males in 2016); occasionally recorded on passage. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1361	974
% of BirdTrack lists	7%	5%

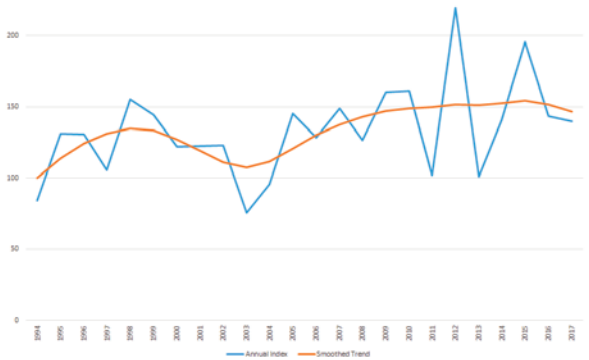
Frequency of occurrence on BirdTrack lists fell in 2017, but the first breeding in Radnor is notable. GWENT: 61-66 singing males at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth), down from 70 in 2016; 32 singing males at 14 other sites on the Gwent Levels and three farther inland alongside the estuarine R.Usk; E.GLAMORGAN: records from 21 locations; breeding confirmed at Kenfig Pool and possible at seven other sites, including Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve (max. 12 in April), Cadoxton Lakes (max. eight in June) and the R.Taf at Butetown (max. five in April); GOWER: bred at Oxwich Marsh and probably at five other sites; present at a further 20 sites including Morfa Bach/R.Kenfig reedbeds (max. 13 in April) and Eglwys Nunydd Res. (max. 13 in April and May); CARMARTHEN: 43 singing males including 14 at Penclacwydd, six each at Ffrwd Fen and Kymer's Canal/Kidwelly Quay, and three each at Pwll, Morfa Berwig and Ashpits Pond; PEMBROKE: recorded in at least 20 1-km squares and in the breeding season at eight sites; CEREDIGION: small numbers bred at Teifi Marshes; three singing males at RSPB Ynys-hir, up to five at Cors Fochno and one near the Leri est.; RADNOR: first breeding record resulted in at least one fledged young; MONTGOMERY: one at Cors Dyfi on 29 April; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Arthog Bog on 26 June; CAERNARFON: singing male at Porthmadog; one at the Spinnies on 15 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 11 singing males at RSPB Cors Ddyga; eight singing males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; two singing males at Llyn Maelog; one at Llyn Cefni in Jan.; DENBIGH: singing male at Wrexham Industrial Estate on 21 May; records at RSPB Conwy during the year but breeding not suspected; FLINT: singles during the year at Shotton Steelworks (where eight were ringed), Shotwick and Gronant; two at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24 March.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* **TITW CYNFFON-HIR**

Relatively common resident, widely distributed except on parts of Anglesey and Llŷn. Numbers fluctuate widely from year to year in response to the severity of winter weather. Increasing. Unusual on the islands. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3578	3596
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	19%

Breeding Bird Survey: Long-tailed Tit in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Despite a couple of years of lower abundance, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 46% above its 1994 level.

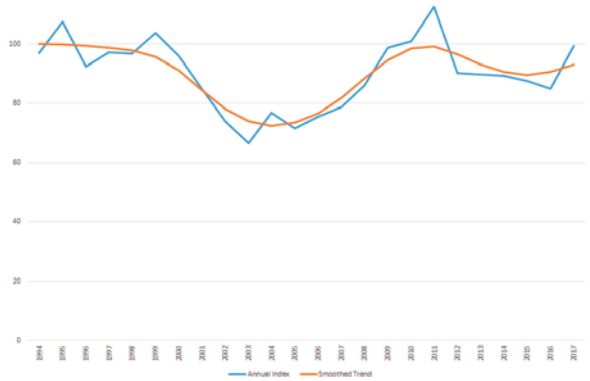
Highest counts (20+): GWENT: seven reports of 30-48 birds at Caldicot Castle, max. on 11 Jan.; 28 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 30 at Parc Slip on 5 Jan.; 36 at Kenfig NNR on 13 Aug. and 27 here on 14 Oct.; 33 at Cadoxton on 21 Aug.; 30 in four flocks at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 1 Oct.; 26 at Pantglas on 11 Oct.; 30 at Dunraven on 25 Oct.; 25 in a Bridgend garden on 1 Dec.; GOWER: 26 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 26 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 45 at Llyn Llech Owain on 9 Oct.; 27 at Llanedi on 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 35 on Skomer on 25 Oct. and 44 on 27th; 25 at Stackpole on 1 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 20+ on Bardsey on 2 Nov.; DENBIGH: six flocks of 20+, largest being 40 at Gresford Flash on 16 Sept.; FLINT three records of 20 or more.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* **TELOR YR HELYG**

Abundant summer visitor. Numerous in suitable habitats up to around 670 metres. Also numerous passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2685	2864
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	15%

Breeding Bird Survey: Willow Warbler in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales picked up in 2017 for the first time since 2011. This apparent stability almost certainly masks differences between South and North Wales. Across the border, Willow Warbler numbers are declining dramatically in England south of a line from Shrewbury to the Humber and are broadly stable to the north. This is a species predicted to be negatively affected by climate change, and sadly we should expect a decline in Wales over the coming decade.

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: noted at only 16 sites but more widespread in the uplands of the north and west; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed breeding at twelve sites; GOWER: 32 singing in a BBS square in Rheola Forest on 20 April and 19 here on 16 June; 23 caught on 29 July at Oxwich Marsh and 12 on 13 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 75 singing males in Cross Inn forest on 8 May; 169 singing males at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: territories in 25 1-km squares in the Tarrell valley involving at least 112 birds, mostly singing males; only 17 located in 25 1-km squares in the South Elenydd above Beulah and Abergwesyn; MONTGOMERY: 20+ at Dolydd Hafren on 21 May and 25 June; MEIRIONNYDD: possible or probable breeding at 54 sites; CAERNARFON: 17 at Coed-tŷ on 22 April; 10 at Dolgarrog on 23 April; 12 in Beddgelert Forest on 20 May; ANGLESEY: 63 singing males at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 42 singing males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: 23 near Llanarmon-yn-lal on a BBS visit on 16 April; FLINT: 23 at Bwlchgwyn during a BBS visit on 24 April.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	12 March	Newport Wetlands Reserve		1 Oct.	Llanwenarth
E.GLAMORGAN	**10 March**	**Caerphilly Castle**		6 Oct.	Summerhouse Point
GOWER	27 March	Tankeylake Moor & Mynydd y Gaer			
CARMARTHEN	1 April	Heol Becca & Pembrey Burrows		14 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	19 March	Stackpole		27 Oct.	St Brides & Skomer
CEREDIGION	27 March	between Borth and Aberystwyth		18 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	30 March	Ffordd Fawr		6 Sept.	The Cwm at Llanwrthwl
MONTGOMERY	31 March	Llanidloes			
MEIRIONNYDD	1 April	Pont Croesor		26 Aug.	Penmaendyfi
CAERNARFON	23 March	Nant		2 Nov.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	25 March	Four Mile Bridge		**14 Nov.**	**Llyn Cefni**
DENBIGH	2 April	Llangollen		11 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	22 March	Tremeirchion		22 Sept.	Nercwys Mountain

Counts of 10+: GWENT: 23 at Abertysswg on 23 April: 12 around Penyvan Pond in April/May; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 1 April; 33 at Kenfig Pool on 5 April; 16 at Llanilid on 7 April; 40 at Cosmeston Lakes CP in Aug.; 17 at Lavernock Pt on 10 Aug.; 13 at Kenfig Pool on 13 Aug.;

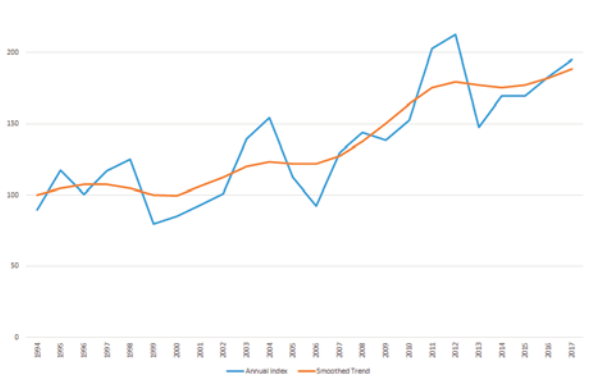
GOWER: 16 at Heol Cae'r Bont on 4 April; 18 between Morfa Bach and R.Kenfig reedbeds on 9 April; PEMBROKE: peak counts on Skomer included 140 on 19 April, 135 on 20th and 69 on 5 May; peak count on Skokholm was 61 on 11 April; CAERNARFON: peak spring counts on Bardsey were 145 on 7 April, 691 on 20th, 223 on 21st, and 176 on 7 May; autumn passage here peaked at 51 on 24 July.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* **SIFF-SIAFF**

Locally common breeding visitor in most counties, wintering in small numbers. Scarce on Anglesey. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	5493	5290
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	27%

Breeding Bird Survey: Chiffchaff in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The long-term growth in numbers reported by the Breeding Bird Survey continues, now 89% above its 1994 level.

Wintering records of Chiffchaff where dates were provided. Some records refer to large numbers of birds present over an extended period:

	Jan	*Feb*		*Nov*	*Dec*
GWENT	13			80	
GOWER	8+	3		1	
E.GLAMORGAN	3	3		11	1
CARMARTHEN	4			4	3
PEMBROKE	1	1			
CEREDIGION	2	1		1	
BRECON	1	2			
MONTGOMERY				1	1
MEIRIONNYDD	1	1		1	1
CAERNARFON	2+	3+		1	3
DENBIGH	P	P		1	
FLINT	P	P		P	P

***P.c. tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff / Siff-siaff Siberia)**

On WRP list until 31 December 2018. 50 records since 2007.

All records were single birds unless otherwise stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay from 27 Dec. 2016, increasing to two birds in Jan. 2017, last reported on 25 March; Trefounder on 1 and 11 Feb.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 28-31 May (DNA confirmed identification); two on Skomer on 17 Nov.; BRECON: Brecon STW from 15 Jan. to 24 Feb.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 26 Oct.; DENBIGH: Abergele/Pensarn on 1-11 Feb.

WESTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus bonelli* **TELOR BONELLI Y GORLLEWIN**

Rare passage migrant, on BBRC list. 13 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one ringed on Skokholm on 24 Sept.

One on Skomer, PEMBROKE, on 31 Aug. did not call and although Western was suspected, Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus orientalis*) could not be ruled out. It is the fourth record of Bonelli's Warbler that could not be assigned to type.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* **TELOR Y COED**

Summer visitor to oak woods throughout most of upland Wales, declining; passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	271	225
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: singing males at min. 18 sites with confirmed breeding at Maryland, Wentwood (16 nests found of which 11 were successful), Cwmavon LNR (six of nine nests fledged young) and Varteg; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Coed Cefn Fforest and possibly at 16 other sites; GOWER: present at 20+ sites with six along six km of Cwm Duffryn on 24 May; CEREDIGION: 11 singing males at Longwood, Bettws Beledrws; 31 singing males at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: 35 singing males including 14 between Elan village and The Cwm; MEIRIONNYDD: possible/probable breeding at 24 sites; CAERNARFON: singing males at 16 sites, mainly in the Capel Curig area and Conwy Valley; DENBIGH: confirmed breeding at one site and probably at a further 13; FLINT: two territories on Nercwys Mountain.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	19 April	Craig yr Allt		1 July	Garndiffaith to Blaenavon
E.GLAMORGAN	**1 April**	**Forest Farm**		1 Aug.	Hamadryad Park, Cardiff
GOWER	23 April	Graig Fawr, Margam		1 Aug.	Clydach
CARMARTHEN	3 May	Allt Rhyd y Groes		30 July	Llandedi
CEREDIGION	15 April	Cwm Clettwr			
BRECON	17 April	The Cwm			
MONTGOMERY	18 April	Gorn Hill			
MEIRIONNYDD	21 April	Llandecwyn area		2 Aug.	Mallwyd
CAERNARFON	30 April	Dolgarrog & Bardsey		22 Aug.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	23 April	Chirk Castle		**27 Aug.**	**RSPB Conwy**
FLINT	11 May	Nercwys Mountain		14 June	Nercwys Mountain

RADDE'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus schwarzi* **TELOR RADDE**

Rare vagrant, on WRP list. Nine previous records.

PEMBROKE: Skomer on 20 Oct.; Skokholm on 26 Oct.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* **TELOR PALLAS**

Vagrant, on WRP list. 46 previous records.

CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 18 April and 7 May, the second of which had been ringed the previous autumn at Spurn, East Yorkshire. These spring records were birds returning northeast to breed having been displaced during an influx to Britain in autumn 2016.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* **TELOR AELFELYN**

Scarce autumn visitor.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	243	16
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Far fewer records than in 2016, though four in Jan.-Feb. were presumably leftovers from that year's record autumn numbers.

Monthly occurrence (number of birds) in each county.

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
E.GLAMORGAN		1									1	
GOWER									1	4		
PEMBROKE	1								1	18	1	1
MONTGOMERY										1		
CAERNARFON Bardsey									11	5		
ANGLESEY	2									2	1	

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* **TELOR GWYRDD**

Rare passage migrant, on WRP list. 27 previous records.

PEMBROKE: one at Martin's Haven on 24 Sept. is only the second mainland Welsh record.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* **TELOR YR HESG**

Locally distributed summer visitor, numerous in some sites, increasing; plentiful passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	973	952
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	5%

Breeding: GWENT: probable or possible breeding at nine sites, mainly on the Gwent Levels; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Kenfig Pool and probably at 11 other sites; GOWER: bred at eight sites and probably also at Eglwys Nunydd Res.; CARMARTHEN: 21 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: probably bred at 35 sites, including 53 pairs on Skomer and 11 pairs on Skokholm; MONTGOMERY: bred at four sites but also recorded at another four; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at 15 sites with confirmed breeding (6-7 nests) from the Lower Tryweryn to Bala Bridge section of the Dee; CAERNARFON: 158 singing males at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 242 singing males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; 10 singing males at Cors Bodeilo on 3 May; four singing males at Cors Goch on 11 May; seven pairs bred at Cemlyn; DENBIGH: breeding confirmed at RSPB Conwy; FLINT: breeding confirmed at two locations in the Gronant area.

Ringing: GWENT: 265 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) between mid-July and early Sept., including 74 on 29 July; GOWER: 56 ringed at Oxwich Marsh during July to Sept. including 56 on 29 July (day record) and 15 on 26 Aug.; BRECON: 200 ringed at Llangorse Lake, most on passage in late July to late Aug.; a French-ringed bird was reported from Llandinam; MONTGOMERY: one found dead at Carno had been ringed in Orkney in 2014.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**1 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		**30 Sept.**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**
E.GLAMORGAN	6 April	Cardiff Bay		18 Sept.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	12 April	Oxwich Marsh & Neath		16 Sept.	Oxwich Marsh
CARMARTHEN	2 April	Carmarthen		6 Sept.	Cross Hands
PEMBROKE	2 April	Teifi Marshes		4 Aug.	Mullock Bridge
CEREDIGION	9 April	Glandwr			
BRECON	14 April	Llangasty		15 Sept.	Llangorse Lake
MONTGOMERY	19 April	Cors Dyfi			
MEIRIONNYDD	21 April	Aberdyfi Golf Course			
CAERNARFON	16 April	Bardsey		17 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	16 April	Llyn Penrhyn			
DENBIGH	4 April	RSPB Conwy		10 Sept.	Ty-nant
FLINT	21 April	Rhyl brickworks		13 Aug.	Shotton Steelworks

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* **TELOR Y CYRS**

Local summer visitor, breeding in reedbeds in many counties, increasing; scarce passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	840	809
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Breeding: GWENT: 29 territories on the Gwent Levels; also bred at Great Bulmore, Caerleon; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Fforest Farm and likely at nine other sites; GOWER: bred at six sites and probably at another two; CARMARTHEN: 33 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from seven locations including a pair on Skomer; CEREDIGION: breeding evidence from four sites; BRECON: 70-90 pairs bred at Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: bred at four sites and also recorded at Severn Farm Pond; CAERNARFON: confirmed/probable breeding at six sites, with singing males at three others; ANGLESEY: 91 singing males at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 300 singing males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; present at four other sites; DENBIGH: bred at eight locations; FLINT: bred at three locations including Shotton Steelworks.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest19*	*Site*
GWENT	**1 April**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		30 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	4 April	Cosmeston Lakes CP		29 Sept.	Kenfig Pool
GOWER	8 April	Pant-y-Sais		24 Sept.	Oxwich Marsh NNR
CARMARTHEN	12 April	Ashpit Ponds			
PEMBROKE	21 April	Teifi Marshes		10 Sept.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	21 April	Ynyslas			
BRECON	5 April	Llangasty			
MONTGOMERY	18 April	Llyn Coed y Dinas		23 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	30 April	Broadwater		9 July	Tonfanau
CAERNARFON	20 April	Bardsey		26 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	13 April	Carmel Head		17 Sept.	RSPB Cors Ddyga
DENBIGH	7 April	RSPB Conwy		16 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	9 April	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands		**8 Oct.**	**Shotton Steelworks**

Ringing: GWENT: 275 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) between mid-July and early Sept., including 49 on 29 July; GOWER: 33 ringed on 29 July and 43 on 27 Aug. at Oxwich Marsh NNR; BRECON: 49 ringed at Llangorse Lake on 31 July.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* **TELOR Y GWERNI**

Rare vagrant, on WRP list. 25 previous records.

PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 2 June.

MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta* **TELOR PER**

Scarce but regular migrant, on WRP list. 220 previous records.

All single birds: PEMBROKE: Skomer on 17-18 Aug.; St. David's Head on 1-2 Sept.; Skokholm from 28 Sept. to 8 Oct.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* **TROELLWR BACH**

Summer visitor, widely but thinly distributed in all counties. Passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	238	290
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

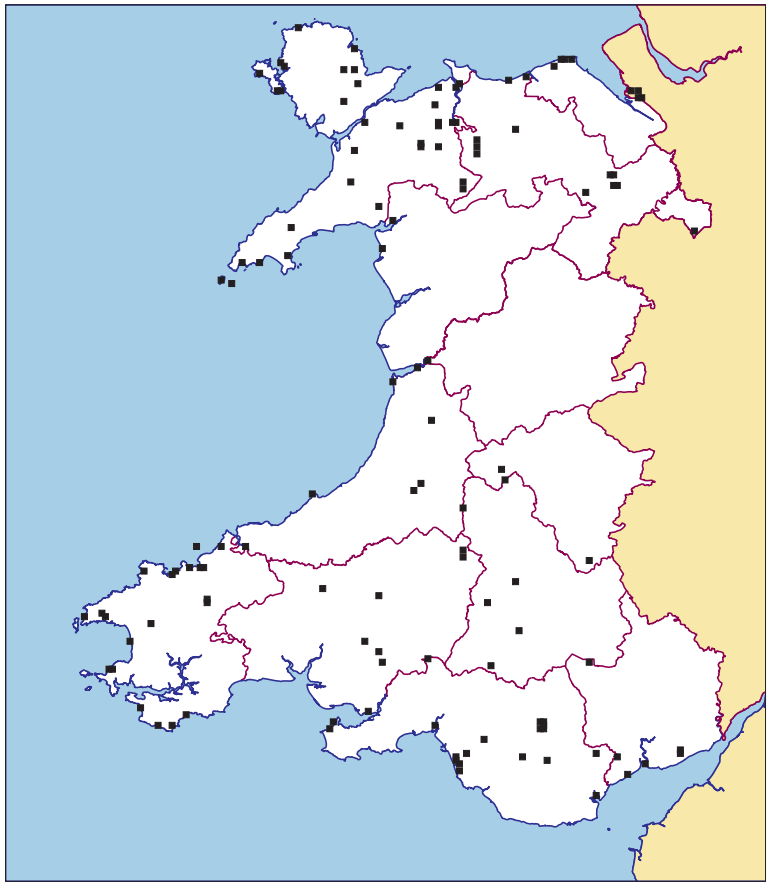
Breeding/reeling males: GWENT: 14, most at Newport Wetlands Reserve but also at Magor Marsh, Peterstone Wentlooge and inland near Ebbw Vale and at Pencroesoped; E.GLAMORGAN: at five sites through June; also heard at a further three; GOWER: bred at Oxwich Marsh NNR where six adults and juveniles were ringed on 26 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 10 sites; PEMBROKE: 13 sites; CEREDIGION: reported as widespread; BRECON: bred at Beulah; reeling males at two other sites; ten ringed at Llangasty reedbeds in Aug.; MONTGOMERY: reeling at four sites; MEIRIONNYDD: reeling at nine sites; CAERNARFON: reeling at 20 sites with probable breeding around Cwm Eigiau and Cors Geirch; ANGLESEY: two pairs bred at Llanfwrog fledging at least five young; two pairs bred at Cemlyn; 12 at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 12 at RSPB Valley Wetlands; heard at a further six sites.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	17 April	Waunafon Bog		24 July	Magor Marsh
E.GLAMORGAN	9 April	Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve		17 Sept.	Rudry Common
GOWER	**2 April**	**Oxwich Marsh**		26 Aug.	Oxwich Marsh
CARMARTHEN	11 April	Tywyn Bach, Burry Port		1 Aug.	Pembrey Burrows
PEMBROKE	7 April	Nolton Haven		**25 Sept.**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	8 April	New Quay & Penderi			
BRECON	22 April	Ystradgynlais			
RADNOR	6 April	Elan Valley			
MEIRIONNYDD	20 April	Penrhyndeudraeth		1 July	Crawcwellt
CAERNARFON	7 April	Bardsey		**25 Sept.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	8 April	Carmel Head			
DENBIGH	9 April	RSPB Conwy		19 July	Pendinas Res.
FLINT	19 April	Talacre		2 Aug.	Gronant Dunes

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Grasshopper Warbler (n = 127)



BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla* **TELOR PENDDU**

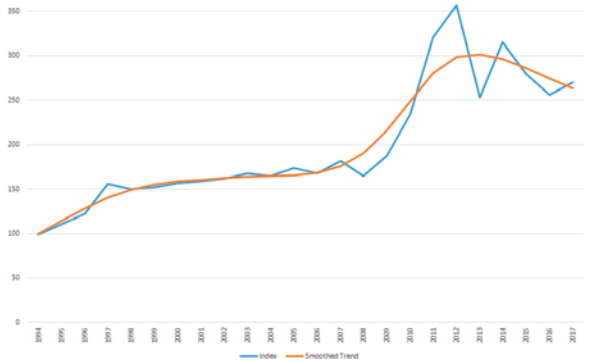
Plentiful summer visitor throughout Wales, passage migrant and small-scale winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3022	3007
% of BirdTrack lists	15%	15%

Following almost two decades of increase, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has declined over the last few years, but it remains 163% above its 1994 level.

Peak day counts on passage: GWENT: 40 at Newport Wetlands saltmarsh on 2 Sept.; 59 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 16 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 26 on Skomer on 19 April, 19 here on 16 Sept. and 18 on 1 Oct.; 17 on Skokholm on 20 April, 19 on 12 May and 18 on 8 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 14 on Bardsey on 9 Sept. and 17 on 17th.

Breeding Bird Survey: Blackcap in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Wintering numbers in each county where provided:

	Jan		Feb		Nov		Dec
GWENT	9				10		
E GLAMORGAN	23				17		
GOWER	2	1			3	5	
CARMARTHEN	6+	3			3	3	
PEMBROKE	1					1	
CEREDIGION	3				2		
BRECON	2				2	1	
MONTGOMERY	3	6				2	
CAERNARFON	6				3	4	
ANGLESEY	4				10		

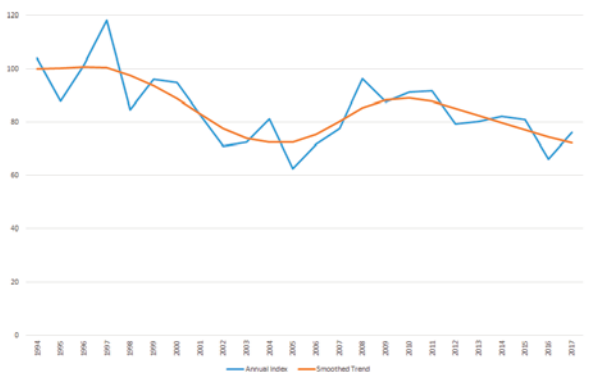
GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin* **TELOR YR ARDD**

Common and widely distributed summer visitor. Regular passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	482	420
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The Garden Warbler population does seem somewhat cyclical, but the Breeding Bird Survey index is now 28% lower than in 1994, which would qualify its uprating to Amber List if the trend continues.

Breeding Bird Survey: Garden Warbler in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	18 April	Rhiw Farm		18 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve
E.GLAMORGAN	11 April	Parc Slip		6 Oct.	Summerhouse Point
GOWER	17 April	near Rheola pond		16 Sept.	Oxwich Marsh NNR
CARMARTHEN	9 April	Johnstown		8 June	Derwen Fawr, Llandybie
PEMBROKE	20 April	Skomer		15 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	29 April	Cross Inn forest		4 Oct.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	24 April	The Cwm		23 Aug.	Brecon
MONTGOMERY	13 April	Roundton Hill		27 Aug.	Bwlchyddar
MEIRIONNYDD	24 April	Farchynys		27 July	Bryncrug
CAERNARFON	8 April	Morfa Madryn		17 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	2 May	Holyhead		**26 Oct.**	**Breakwater CP, Holyhead**
DENBIGH	**7 April**	**RSPB Conwy**		29 Aug.	Ty-nant
FLINT	22 April	Gronant		28 Sept.	Connah's Quay NR

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* **TELOR RHESOG**

Rare visitor, on WRP list. 101 previous records.

PEMBROKE: ringed on Skokholm on 24-25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 28 Sept.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca* **LLWYDFRON FACH**

Summer visitor to lowland habitats, but localised. Passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	407	343
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	2%

The breeding trend of Lesser Whitethroat in Wales remains uncertain because of low sample size, but a pair at Ynys Crossing, Meirionnydd, was the first confirmed breeding record in the county since 2011.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	9 April	Peterstone Wentlooge		17 Sept.	Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff)
E.GLAMORGAN	9 April	Parc Tredelerch		2 Sept.	Cosmeston Lakes CP & Pant Norton
GOWER	17 April	Eglwys Nunydd Res.		27 Aug.	several sites
CARMARTHEN	24 April	Pwll		29 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	16 April	Aber Rhigian		11 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	22 April	Teifi estuary		2 Aug.	Ynyslas
BRECON					
MONTGOMERY	26 April	Dolydd Hafren		4 Oct.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	11 May	Glyndyfrdwy			
CAERNARFON	30 April	Bardsey		2 Sept.	Porth Meudwy
ANGLESEY	12 April	Four Mile Bridge		**17 Oct.**	**Breakwater CP, Holyhead**
DENBIGH	**3 April**	**RSPB Conwy**		17 Sept.	RSPB Conwy
FLINT	10 April	Rhyl brickworks		15 Aug.	Connah's Quay NR

Table excludes one in a Kilgetty garden, PEMBROKE, from 12 Nov. 2016 to 16 Feb., which is the first record of an over-wintering bird in the county.

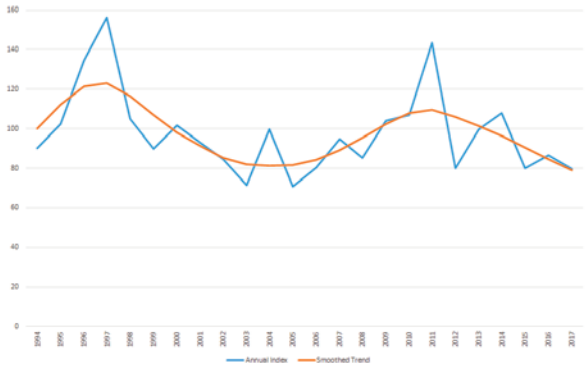
Birds showing characteristics of ***S.c. blythi*** ('**Siberian Lesser Whitethroat / Llwydron Fach Siberia**') PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 11 Oct. (DNA analysis of a shed feather awaited); CAERNARFON: birds on Bardsey on 6-9 Oct., 26 Oct., 28 Oct. and 2-4 Nov. (DNA analysis of a shed feather from one bird awaited); ANGLESEY: suspected eastern-race bird in a Holyhead garden on 14 Dec.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis* **LLWYDFRON**

Widespread summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1903	1891
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	10%

Breeding Bird Survey: Whitethroat in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey in Wales index in 2017 hits a new low (21% below its 1994 level), remembering that when BBS began, Whitethroat numbers were still just 30% of their early 1960s level. The current decline in Wales is in contrast to every other part of the UK where numbers have increased since the baseline.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**3 March**	**Newport Wetlands Reserve**		**12 Nov.**	**Collister Pill**
E.GLAMORGAN	8 April	Kenfig NNR & Parc Slip NR		28 Sept.	Nash Point
GOWER	9 April	Llangennith Burrows		15 Oct.	Mewslade
CARMARTHEN	13 April	Pembrey Burrows		30 Aug.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	6 April	Skomer		1 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	11 April	Leri est.		20 Sept.	Llanrhystud
BRECON	6 April	Caeau Ty Mawr, Llangasty		7 Sept.	Bwlch Quarry
MONTGOMERY	9 April	Dolydd Hafren		30 Aug.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April	Llandwyng		23 Aug.	Morfa Harlech
CAERNARFON	19 April	Bardsey		6 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	20 April	RSPB Valley Wetlands		5 Sept.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	20 April	RSPB Conwy		4 Sept.	Ty-nant
FLINT	13 April	Rhuddlan		27 Aug.	Shotton Steelworks

Notable counts: GWENT: 20 singing males at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 27 April; CEREDIGION: 27 singing males at Cross Inn forest on 8 May; ANGLESEY: 24 singing males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; FLINT: 10 in Sandycroft BBS square on 2 July.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata* **TELOR DARTFORD**

Rare migrant to coastal areas, mainly in south and west Wales. Breeds in small numbers, increasing (24 pairs in 2016). Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	33	38
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

The records below suggest a decrease in Gower and continued expansion in Pembrokeshire, but just one site in the north, compared to two over recent years.

E.GLAMORGAN: one at Dunraven on 2-23 Jan.; GOWER: nine localities (seven coastal and two inland) but no evidence of breeding; the few records suggest a population decrease; PEMBROKE: at least 23 pairs at six locations, of which eight were confirmed, 11 pairs probably bred and four possibly (*cf.* 11 pairs in a dedicated survey in 2014); CAERNARFON: two at a known breeding site in the northeast on 4 Jan. and a nest was reported here on 29 April.

EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* **TELOR BRONGOCH**

Rare vagrant from southeast Europe. On WRP list, but records of specific races to BBRC. 11 previous records.

PEMBROKE: males on Skomer on 20 April and 8 May are the first records for the island.

A female-type Subalpine Warbler sp. was on the Great Orme, CAERNARFON, on 14 May, but could not be assigned to type.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* **DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH**

Scarce breeding resident (25 pairs in 2016) and uncommon passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	201	96
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: birds present in Wentwood during April-June but no survey undertaken this year; RADNOR: singing male at Presteigne in June; DENBIGH: pair bred in Clocaenog Forest, but not clear whether the chicks fledged.

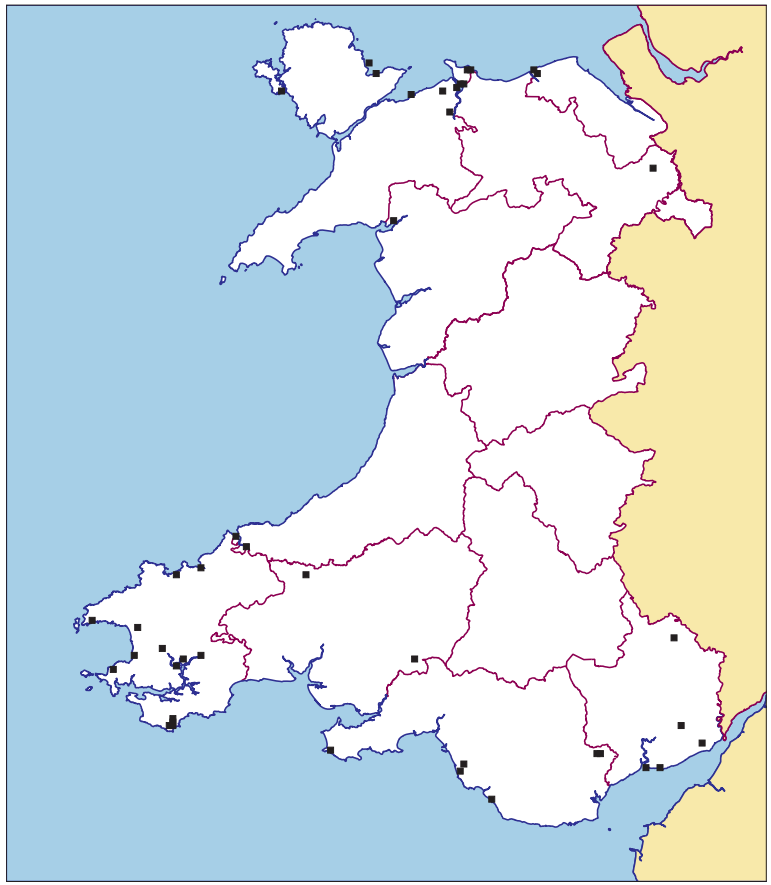
Numbers of birds in each county:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
GWENT*			4	5+				2	2	2	2	1
E.GLAMORGAN			1	1					1	5		
GOWER	1							1	3	3	1	2
CARMARTHEN											1	1
PEMBROKE	3	2	1		2				2	18	17	12
CAERNARFON												
Bardsey				2				5	20	20+	9	
Great Orme												
elsewhere	2		2									3
ANGLESEY			1							6	10+	7+
DENBIGH	1		1		2	2	3			1+	1+	2+
FLINT			2									1

* Gwent: records away from the main breeding area in Wentwood.

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Firecrest (n = 44)



GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* **DRYW EURBEN**

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

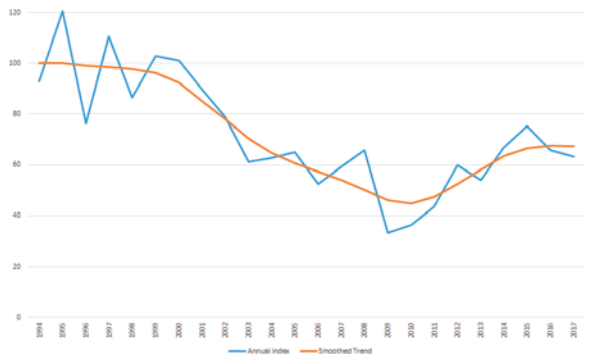
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3526	3554
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	19%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales (on page 156) shows Goldcrests making a recovery from their population crash around 2010, presumably a result of two cold winters, though the trend remains 33% below its 1994 level. Other parts of the UK show a more positive trend, so – as for Coal Tit – perhaps the change reflects the Welsh Government's switch away from plantation conifers.

Counts of 20+: GWENT: 20 ringed at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 30 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Dunraven and 20 at Rudry Common on 17 Sept.; 22 at Cwm Nash on 8 Oct.; 30 at Rudry Common on 29 Oct.; GOWER: 51 ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR on 11 March with 75+ in the area; 80 at Mewslade/Middleton on 9 Oct. and 40 here on 27 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 21 at Carew Cheriton on 13 March;

35 on Skomer on 7 Sept., 33 here on 25th and 45 on 12 Oct.; 42 on Skokholm on 30 Sept. and 28 on 8 Oct.; BRECON: 20 at Brecon STW on 17 and 31 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 41 at Lake Vyrnwy on 8 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 84 on Great Orme on 27 Oct.; 104 on Bardsey on 23 March, then 20+ on 12 dates between 31 Aug. and 6 Oct., max. day count 231 on 17 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 206 at Breakwater CP on 18 Sept. and 30 here on 5 Oct.; DENBIGH: 25 at Tal-y-cafn on 15 Feb.; 25 at Mynydd Hiraethog on 1 May; 20 in Clocanenog Forest on 18 Sept.

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldcrest in Wales, 1994 - 2017

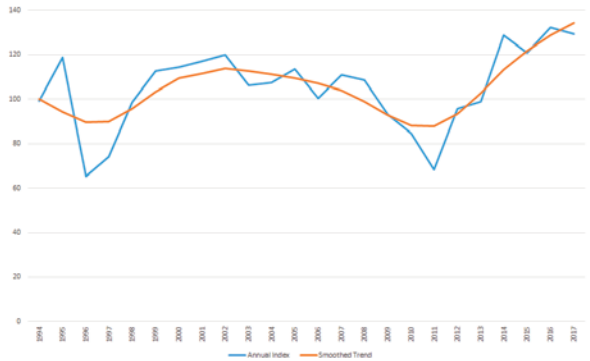


WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* **DRYW**

Abundant resident, found from sea-level to c.900 metres. Wales Green listed.

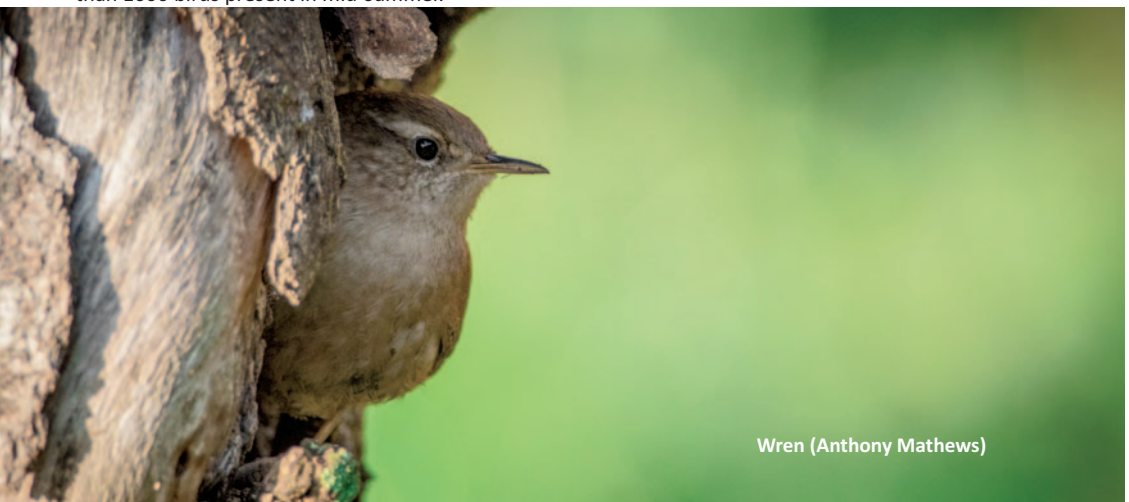
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	10222	9883
% of BirdTrack lists	56%	55%

Breeding Bird Survey: Wren in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Despite dips caused by cold winters, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is at its highest level since the survey began, 34% above 1994.

Selected records: GWENT: 1330 records, almost twice as many as in 2016; BRECON: 20 roosted in a House Martin nestbox at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, in Dec.; CAERNARFON: 246 territories on Bardsey with high productivity and estimate of more than 1000 birds present in mid-summer.



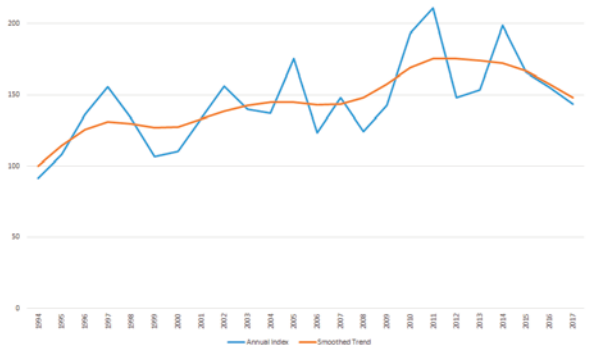
Wren (Anthony Mathews)

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* **DELOR Y CNAU**

Widely distributed and fairly numerous resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the Welsh islands. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2377	2837
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	15%

Breeding Bird Survey: Nuthatch in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen back slightly in the last few years but sustained growth to 2010 means that it remains 48% above its 1994 level.

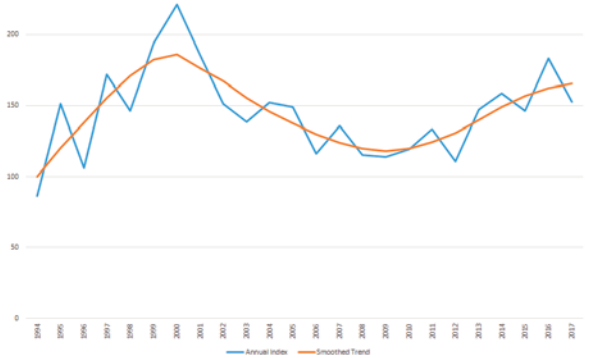
Breeding: GOWER: in a nestbox study at Cwm Clydach, ten pairs fledged 44 young (4.4 young/nest, *cf.* 2.2 in 2016).

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* **DRINGWR BACH**

Resident. Widely distributed in woodlands throughout Wales. Increasing. Unusual on the islands. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	973	904
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	5%

Breeding Bird Survey: Treecreeper in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been recovering well since 2009 and now lies 65% above its 1994 level.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Pastor roseus* **DRUDWEN WRIDOG**

Rare visitor from southeast Europe. On WRP list; 107 previous records.

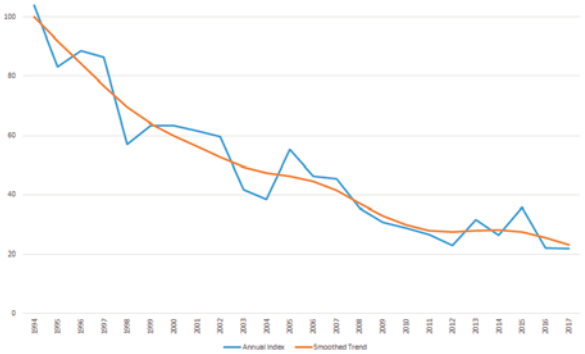
GOWER: adult at Gowerton on 6-11 June; PEMBROKE: 1CY at Roch on 12-14 Nov.; presumed same at St. Florence on 26-30 Nov.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* **DRUDWEN**

Widespread resident; passage migrant and winter visitor in large numbers. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	4766	5013
% of BirdTrack lists	25%	27%

Breeding Bird Survey: Starling in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales slides farther downward in 2017, after a few years of stability. It now lies 77% lower than its 1994 level, a scale of decline greater than any other UK nation and matched only in southwest England.

Large winter flocks (1000+) in first winter period: GWENT: tens of thousands in a murmuration at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 2 Jan.; 10,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 17 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 5300 at Bridgend on 14 Jan.; GOWER: 1400 at Penclawdd on 22 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: 2000 over Llanedi on 20 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 30,000 at Minwear on 2 Jan.; 50,000 at Slebech on 25 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 2500 northwest over Bala to roost on 5 March; CAERNARFON: 60,000 at Criccieth on 20 Jan.; 45,000 at Ystumllyn on 28 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 100,000 roosted southeast of Mynydd Parys; DENBIGH: 2000 fed at Rhydlydan near Pentrefoelas on 15 Jan.; FLINT: 4000 at Gronant on 18 Jan.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 10,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 27 Oct. increasing to 150,000 by 19 Nov. and 200,000 on 20 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 5000 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 8 Nov. and at Kenfig Pool on 19th; 2000 at Llandaff on 27 Dec.; 5000 at Whitchurch on 30 Dec.; GOWER: 3800 over Llanrhidian Marsh on 25 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 10,000 at Penclacwydd on 27 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 30,000 at Pickle Wood on 28 Oct. and 100,000 here on 7 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 3500 near Penrhiwllan on 16 Nov.; BRECON: 12,000 at Llangorse Lake on 18 Oct. increasing to 120,000 by 29th, and a peak of 150,000 on 9 Nov.; 3000 fed in arable fields at Pennorth and Scethrog in Oct/Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 10,000 roosted at Dolydd Hafren on 12 Nov. and 3000 here on 3 Dec.; 2000 at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 10 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 1200 at Caerhun on 3 Nov.; 10,000 at Talybont on 16 Dec.; 50,000 at Dolgarrog on 28 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 3000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 1 Nov. and 7000 here on 29th; 200,000 in a reedbed near Mynydd Parys on 4 Nov.; DENBIGH: 5000 west over Towyn on 13 Nov.; FLINT: 1200 at Rhyl on 22 Oct. and 1562 here on 5 Dec.; 4150 at Gronant on 1 Nov. increasing to 10,000 on 12th; 5000 over Caersws on 21 Nov.; 3000 at Berthengam, east of Prestatyn, on 25 Dec.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* **MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD**

Summer visitor breeding in the uplands in decreasing numbers; passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	156	109
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: singing males at two upland sites; BRECON: bred successfully above Sennybridge; breeding at least attempted at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad; RADNOR: 12 singing birds; MONTGOMERY: one at Bryn Moel on 3 July; MEIRIONNYDD: juv. with two males at Arenig Quarry on 24 July; signs of breeding at seven other sites; CAERNARFON: present at several sites in the Carneddau, Nant Ffrancon and Glyderau, and others on Snowdon, Nantlle Ridge, Moel Siabod and Moel yr Ogof.

Passage counts (10+ birds): RADNOR: 12 at Harley Dingle on 31 March; FLINT: 11 at Penycloddiau on 2 April.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

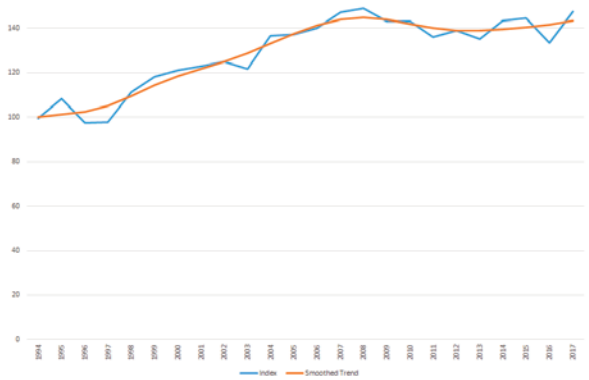
	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	15 March	Saltmarsh Lane, Newport		8 Nov.	The Blorenge
E.GLAMORGAN	21 March	Ystrad Mynach		14 Dec.	Mynydd Meio, Caerphilly
CARMARTHEN				27 Oct.	Bannau Sir Gaer
PEMBROKE	23 March	Skomer		18 Oct.	Rhosson Farm
CEREDIGION	28 March	Cwmystwyth			
BRECON	2 April	Craig Cerrig Gleisiad		1 Nov.	Craig-y-fro
RADNOR	31 March	Harley Dingle		**15 Nov.**	**location not provided**
MONTGOMERY	27 March	Lake Vyrnwy		29 Oct.	Corndon Hill
MEIRIONNYDD	25 March	Rhobell Fawr		1 Sept.	Cadair Idris
CAERNARFON	24 March	Bardsey		30 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	23 March	South Stack			
DENBIGH	2 April	Horseshoe Pass		28 Aug.	Pistyll Rhaeadr
FLINT	**11 March**	**Connah's Quay NR**			

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* **MWYALCHEN**

Abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	12459	12432
% of BirdTrack lists	66%	68%

Breeding Bird Survey: Blackbird in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable for a decade, 43% above its 1995 level.

Large counts (30+): GWENT: 63 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 4 Jan.; 75 at Caldicot Castle on 23 Jan. and 51 here on 23 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 45 at Dunraven on 17 Sept.; 49 at Kenfig NNR on 5 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 32 on Skokholm on 22 Oct.; 90 on Skomer on 27 Oct. and 42 here on 2 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 70 at Llanon on 11 Dec.; BRECON: 40 in upper Glyn Collwn on 23 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 32 on the Great Orme on 27 Oct.; peak day counts on Bardsey, 42 on 18 Oct., 47 on 27th, 43 on 30th and 33 on 3 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 43 at Malltraeth on 1 Jan.; 35 at Llanddyfnan on 11 Dec.; DENBIGH: 32 in the Holt area on 2 May; FLINT: 38 near St. Asaph on 4 Jan.; 38 near Rhyl on 4 Feb.; 39 at Rhyl brickworks on 14 Nov.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* **SOCAN EIRA**

Winter visitor and passage migrant in variable numbers; often abundant. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	781	749
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	4%

High counts (120+) in the first winter period: GWENT: 5000 at Llantilio Crossenny and 133 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 15 Jan.; 210 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 21 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 180 at Llancadle on 12 March; CARMARTHEN: 150 at Cilsan Bridge on 23 Feb.; BRECON: 200 at Felincamlais on 7 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 120 at Llyn Clywedog on 11 March; ANGLESEY: 200 north of Holland Arms on 13 March; DENBIGH: 200 at Rhosymadoc on 7 Feb.; 200 at Penycae on 13 April.

Latest and earliest reports in each county:

	Latest	*Site*		*Earliest*	*Site*
GWENT	21 April	Llangybi		23 Oct.	Llanerch Uchaf
E.GLAMORGAN	23 April	Nant y Twpa, Bargoed			
GOWER	1 March	Mynydd Margam		29 Oct.	Taibach
CARMARTHEN	9 March	Cennen Tower		1 Nov.	Pal y Cwrt & Wern Wgan
PEMBROKE	**3 May**	**Llandilo**		20 Oct.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	28 March	Llyn Eiddwen		3 Oct.	location not provided
BRECON	7 April	Craig Llyn, Llanwrthwl		25 Oct.	Senni
MONTGOMERY	9 April	Dolydd Hafren		23 Oct.	Llyn Hir
MEIRIONNYDD	7 April	Corwen		23 Oct.	Penrhyndeudraeth
CAERNARFON	1 May	Foel Fras		9 Oct.	Nant Ffrancon
ANGLESEY	13 March	Holland Arms		29 Sept.	Brynteg
DENBIGH	20 April	Eglwyseg		12 Oct.	Denbigh
FLINT	20 March	Connah's Quay NR		**27 Sept.**	**Bagillt**

In the second winter period: GWENT: 300 in Pwll Du quarries on 2 Nov.; 200 on Gilwern Hill on 3 Nov.; 150 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 15 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 200 at Pal y Cwrt on 1 Nov.; 200 at Bishop's Pond, Abergwili, on 18 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Llanwnda on 28 Oct.; BRECON: 400 at Ponde on 5 Nov.; 300 in the Ffrydlas valley on 30 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 164 at RSPB South Stack on 30 Oct.; DENBIGH: 170 near Holt on 14 Nov.; FLINT: 157 near Rhuddlan on 2 Dec.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* **COCH DAN ADAIN**

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1722	1662
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	8%

Large counts (120+) in the first winter period: GWENT: 151 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 15 Jan., 300 here on 18 Feb.; 500 at Llantilio Crossenny and 122 at Gwern Ddu on 15 Jan.; 125 at Llanwenarth on 4 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 350 at Rudry Common on 8 Feb.; 137 at Coed Craig Ruperra on 11 Feb.; 180 at Llantwit Fardre on 1 April; PEMBROKE: 150 at Plumstone on 13 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 400 at Paradwys on 3 Jan. and 250 here on 11th; DENBIGH: 200 near Sontley on 12 Feb.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 450 near Mathern Oaze on 11 Dec.; 200 at Magor on 15 Dec.; 130 at Leechpool Holdings on 25 Dec.; 300 at Redwick on 30 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 220 at Mynydd Ty-talwyn (Maesteg) on 12 Dec.; GOWER: 900 over Taibach and 179 over Gnoll Park on 29 Oct.; 136 near Cilfrew on 26 Nov.; 150 at Cefn Bryn on 3 Dec.; 300 at Troed y Rhiw and 160 over Cwm Kenfig on 16 Dec.; 169 at Llanrhidian Marsh and 300 near Cillibion on 19 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 300 at Pembrey Burrows on 27 Oct.; 200 in the Dryslwyn/Cilsan area on 28 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 125 at Carew on 5 Nov.; 200 at Minwear

on 27 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 280 at Llanon on 11 Dec.; BRECON: 650 west in 30 minutes over Brechfa Pool on 5 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: 1500 at Powis Castle on 28 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 137 on Bardsey on 18 Oct. and 144 here on 9 Nov.; 300 north at Llandudno Junction on 10 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 150 at Llanfechell on 1 Dec.; DENBIGH: 250 west and 2500 southwest at Penycae on 10 Oct.; FLINT: 1000 near Bagillt on 31 Oct.; 204 near Rhuddlan on 11 Nov.

Latest and earliest reports in each county:

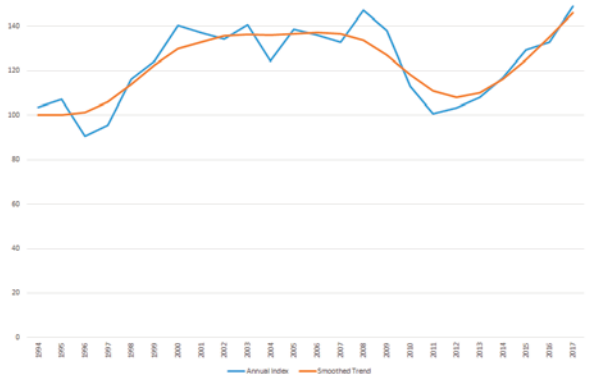
	Latest	*Site*		*Earliest*	*Site*
GWENT	**11 April**	**Ysgyryd Fawr**		23 Sept.	Llanwenarth
E.GLAMORGAN	3 April	Parc Slip NR		25 Sept.	Llanharan Marsh
GOWER	27 March	Mynydd Nant y bar		25 Oct.	Oxwich Marsh NNR
CARMARTHEN	12 March	Llanedi		10 Oct.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	29 March	Skomer		14 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION				**16 Sept.**	**location not provided**
BRECON	21 March	Llangasty		13 Oct.	Mynydd Illtyd & Llanwrthwl
MONTGOMERY	6 April	Dolydd Hafren		10 Oct.	Lake Vyrnwy
MEIRIONNYDD	18 March	three locations		9 Oct.	Morfa Harlech
CAERNARFON	9 April	Bardsey		7 Oct.	Treborth Botanic Gardens
ANGLESEY				10 Oct.	Porth Eilian
DENBIGH	4 April	RSPB Conwy		3 Oct.	Pentrefelin, Conwy valley
FLINT	23 March	Cilcain		27 Sept.	Bagillt

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* **BRONFRAITH**

Widely distributed and fairly common resident, formerly abundant. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	5315	5468
% of BirdTrack lists	28%	30%

Breeding Bird Survey: Song Thrush in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index hit a new high in Wales in 2017, a welcome recovery for a former Red-list species.

Counts of 30+: PEMBROKE: peak day counts on Skomer, 86 on 27 Oct. and 49 on 13 Nov.; 50 on Skokholm on 24 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 120 at Llanon on 11 Dec.; CAERNARFON: peak day counts of 50 on Bardsey on 26 Oct., 55 on 27th and up to 33 on 12-16 Dec.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* **BRYCH Y COED**

Fairly common resident; many young birds emigrate in their first autumn. Wales Amber listed.

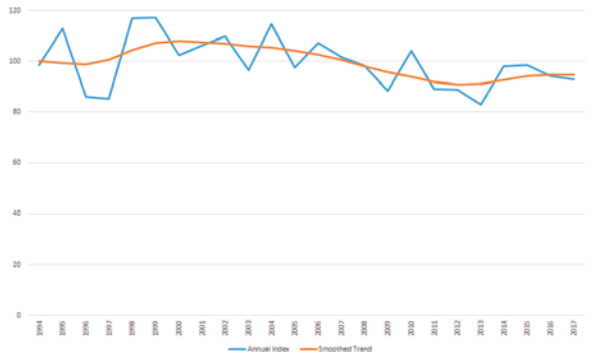
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2627	2882
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	15%

A few years of greater abundance have helped to partially recover the Breeding Bird Survey index and it now lies only 5% below its 1995 level.

Large flocks (20+): GWENT: 71 at Llanvihangel Gobion on 4 Aug.; 33 at Brynmawr on 28 Aug.; 24 at

Rockfield on 5 Sept.; 49 at Llanwenarth on 1 Oct.; 40 at The Bryn on 10 Oct.; 30 at Sebastopol on 20 Oct.; 33 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 31 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 31 at Rudry Common on 29 July; GOWER: 70 at Margam Abbey on 21 Aug.; 28 near Eglwys Nunydd Res.; BRECON: 25 at Llandefalle on 30 June; 40 at Libanus on 31 Aug.; 42 at Treberfydd on 2 Sept.; RADNOR: 76 at Black Hill in Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 22 at Llanfihangel on 12 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 23 at Pont Tai Hirion, Migneint on 1 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 26 at the Great Orme on 8 Oct.; 30 at Bron Eifion, Criccieth on 27 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 24 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 5 Aug.; 50 at Llanddyfnan on 7 Aug.; DENBIGH: 22 at Chirk Castle on 1 Aug.; FLINT: 23 at Connah's Quay NR on 28 July.

Breeding Bird Survey: Mistle Thrush in Wales, 1994 - 2017



SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* **GWYBEDOG MANNOG**

Once a common summer visitor, now declining; passage migrant during May and August/September. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	336	313
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: GWENT: present at 17 sites with evidence of breeding at nine; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at four sites; GOWER: bred at four sites; CARMARTHEN: records from seven sites, including a nesting pair at Rhydcymerau; PEMBROKE: recorded from at least 28 1-km squares, with breeding evidence from eight sites; CEREDIGION: single pairs at seven sites plus four territories at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: present at 17 sites including six in the Tarrell valley. Seven pairs raised young across the county, one pair having two broods from different nests; MEIRIONNYDD: records from 14 sites, probable breeding at four and confirmed at Mallwyd; CAERNARFON: six pairs bred, of which two or three were double-brooded; records from eight other sites; ANGLESEY: one pair bred successfully at Llyn Cefni; DENBIGH: four records of confirmed breeding; FLINT: pairs present at 2-3 sites.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	8 May	Gwern Ddu & near Osbaston		8 Oct.	Blackrock
E.GLAMORGAN	8 May	Norton Wood & Bonvilston			
GOWER	30 April	Heol Cae'r Bont		28 Sept.	location not provided
CARMARTHEN	18 May	Penclacwydd		29 Sept.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	29 April	Skomer		**10 Oct.**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	11 May	Cwm Breifi			
BRECON	**28 April**	**Craig Llyn, Llanwrthwl**		18 Sep.	Glasbury & Brechfa Pool
MONTGOMERY	16 May	Lake Vyrnwy			
MEIRIONNYDD	11 May	Melin y Wyg		13 Aug.	Waen yr Hydd near Cynwyd
CAERNARFON	2 May	Bardsey		1 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	8 May	South Stack		10 Sept.	Rhoscolyn
DENBIGH	8 May	Garth		25 Aug.	Chirk Castle
FLINT	13 May	Pantymwyn & Rhuddlan		31 July	Nercwys Mountain

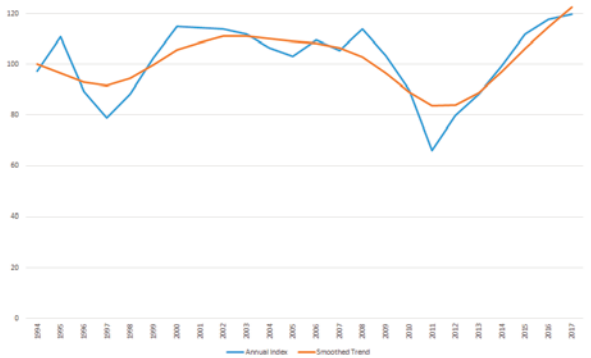
Passage peak counts: PEMBROKE: 12 on Skomer on 5 and 12 May, and nine on 29 Aug.; 12 on Skokholm on 23 May, five each on 17 and 24 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 28 on Bardsey on 14 May, 23 on 16th, 12 each on 1 and 5 Sept.; ANGLESEY: six at RSPB South Stack on 9 May; eight at Carmel Head on 21 May.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* **ROBIN GOCH**

Common and widespread resident in all counties and a passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	12307	12123
% of BirdTrack lists	66%	66%

Breeding Bird Survey: Robin in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales stands at its highest ever level, boosted by a 37% increase in the last five years.

Large counts (20+): GWENT: 19 counts of 20-37 at Caldicot Castle in Jan.- March and up to 38 in April-May; up to 47 around Penallt and Tregagle in Jan.-March; E.GLAMORGAN: 28 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 2 Jan.; 40 at Dunraven on 17 Sept.; at least 50 in St.Fagan's Museum grounds on 8 Oct.; GOWER: 25 in Penllergare Valley Woods on 28 March; CARMARTHEN: 37 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: 26 at Sychpant on 23 April; max. day counts on Skomer, 50 on 25 Sept. and 45 on 8 Oct.; max. day counts on Skokholm, 58 on 20 Sept., 49 on 2 Nov. and 35 on 13th; BRECON: 31 around Llangenny/Mynydd Penyfal on 23 Jan.; 33 in song in Pen y Garn (Abergwesyn) on 18 April; CAERNARFON: 30+ on the Great Orme on eight dates between 23 Sept. and 28 Oct., with max. day counts of 47 on 10 Oct. and 60 on 27th; max. day counts on Bardsey, 79 on 16 Sept., 67 on 8 Oct. and 40 on 1 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 113 at Breakwater CP on 8 Oct.; DENBIGH: 44 at Pwllycrochan Woods on 5 April; 28 at Holt on 22 Dec.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* **BRONLAS**

Scarce visitor breeding in Scandinavia (red-spotted) and the rest of Europe (white-spotted). On WRP list; 44 previous records.

GWENT: Kilgeddin on 5-6 Oct.; 1CY male ringed at Uskmouth on 14 Oct.; PEMBROKE: male ringed on Skokholm on 27 May; CEREDIGION: 1 CY/female ringed at Teifi Marshes on 31 Aug.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* **EOS**

Scarce passage visitor, on WRP list. 41 records since 1991.

CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 6 Oct.

RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL *Tarsiger cyanurus* **CYNFFONLAS YSTLYSGOCH**

Rare vagrant breeding in northeast Europe and across Asia. On BBRC list; four previous records.

E.GLAMORGAN: Wern-ddu, Caerphilly, from 26 Jan. to 21 Feb.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* **GWYBEDOG BRITH**

Common but declining summer visitor in most mainland counties, rare on Anglesey. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	359	392
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Selected breeding records: GWENT: bred at 5 of 9 sites; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Pant-yr-Awel; singing males at two other sites; CARMARTHEN: six pairs bred at Abbey Woods, Whitland; 10 at Allt Rhyd y Groes on 3 May; PEMBROKE: four pairs bred at Ffynone Wood; two pairs failed at Llanychaer; four singing males in Llandilo woods; CEREDIGION: in April seven singing males at Denmark Farm and six at Cwm Clettwr NR; BRECON: 30 pairs bred in boxes in a Cardiff University study at Newbridge-on-Wye; 17 pairs bred successfully in boxes at other sites; MONTGOMERY: 1307 were ringed, more than in any other county in Britain, one-third at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy where it is estimated that numbers have fallen by 15% since the 1990s; MEIRIONNYDD: records from 38 sites, with breeding confirmed at five, probable at seven, and possible at 26; CAERNARFON: breeding confirmed at nine sites, and probable/possible at another 12; DENBIGH/FLINT: bred at *c*.16 sites; in the Eglwyseg Valley, eggs were laid five days earlier than in 2016 (average first egg laid on 7 May).

Nest productivity, assessed by nestbox monitoring projects where comparisons are available, was 5.6 fledged young/nest, better than in 2016.

Site, county	*Pairs*	*Young fledged*	*Fledged young/nest*	*Fledged young/nest (2016)*
Cwm Clydach, GOWER	21	85	4.1	3.6
Halfway, CARMARTHEN	15	108	6.9	
RSPB Ynys-hir, CEREDIGION	35		2.4	
Coed Crafnant, MEIRIONNYDD	50	292	5.84	4.89
Gwaith Powdwr, MEIRIONNYDD	5	15	3.0	5.86
Rowen, CAERNARFON	30	203	6.76	3.3
Other Conwy Valley, CAERNARFON	17	66	3.9	
Nine sites in DENBIGH & FLINT	144	685	4.76	
Eglwyseg Valley, DENBIGH	102		4.8	4.3

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	18 April	Ysgyryd Fawr		24 Sept.	Llandegfedd Res.
E.GLAMORGAN	17 April	Bargoed & Llangynwyd		13 Aug.	Rudry Common
GOWER				1 Oct.	Mewslade/Middleton
PEMBROKE	10 April	Skomer		**26 Oct.**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	**2 April**	**RSPB Ynys-hir**			
BRECON	3 April	Beulah & Llysdinam Field Centre		11 Aug.	Cwm-bach
MONTGOMERY	4 April	Rhos-y-Brithdir			
MEIRIONNYDD	8 April	Groeslwyd, Mawddach		15 Aug.	Caerdeon, Mawddach
CAERNARFON	11 April	Fachwen near Llyn Padarn		6 Oct.	Bardsey
DENBIGH	4 April	Rhos-y-brithdir		22 July	Nant-y-ffrith Res.
FLINT	16 April	Gwernaffield-y-Waun			

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* **GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH**

Rare vagrant breeding in Scandinavia and eastern Europe. On WRP list; 197 previous records.

PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skomer on 27 Oct.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros* **TINGOCH DU**

Spring and autumn passage migrant. Winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	502	155
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Records are single birds unless otherwise stated: GWENT: at least three around Newport Wetlands in Jan.; singles at three sites in March-April and at least three in Oct.-Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: at 12 locations between 1 Jan. and 21 March; Cardiff Airport on 19 Oct.; Nash Pt on 21 Nov. and 4 Dec.; GOWER: Aberavon/Mariners Quay on 3 Jan., 22 March and 7 Dec.; Swansea on 3 March; Gorseinon on 3 May; Caerwen Neath on 12 May; CARMARTHEN: at four sites in Jan.-April and at four in Oct.-Dec. PEMBROKE: at six mainland sites in Jan.-March and at 18 in Oct.-Dec.; 1-2 on Skomer and Skokholm on many dates between 10 March and 14 May, on 12 June and between 15 Oct. and 16 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth in Jan.-Feb., 21 and 24 Nov.; Cwmystwyth on 27 March; BRECON: Fan Bwlch Chwyth quarry on 6 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Tonfanau on 4 Nov.; north of Broadwater on 28 Nov.; CAERNARFON: three sites on the mainland in Jan.-March; three near Aberdaron on 10 April; three on the Great Orme on 10 May and 3 Dec.; three at Aberdaron church on 21 Dec.; 1-2 on Bardsey on eight dates between 13 March and 2 April, male ringed on 22 May, one on 25 July, 1-2 on nine dates between 21 Oct. and 11 Nov., including three on 7th; ANGLESEY: Llanddwyn Island on 2 Jan.; RSPB South Stack on 22-23 March, 13 May and 15 Dec.; Cemlyn on 30 April; Breakwater CP on 8-9 Nov.; RAF Valley on 28 Nov.; Holyhead Harbour on 23 Dec.; DENBIGH: eight records from the coast during 7-17 Jan.; Kinmel Bay on 21 Dec.; FLINT: Rhyl on 7 Jan.; Connah's Quay on 29 Sept.

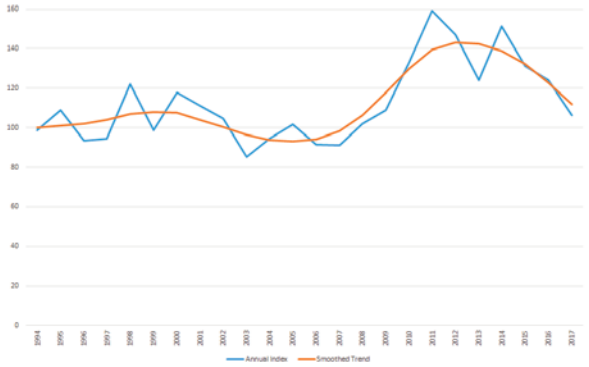
REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* **TINGOCH**

Numerous summer visitor in deciduous woodland and ffridd in many parts of upland Wales. Locally common elsewhere; scarce on Anglesey and in Pembrokeshire. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	784	606
% of BirdTrack lists	3%	3%

The Breeding Bird Survey index has dropped 32 points in the last five years, but it remains 11% higher than its 1994 baseline. County bird reports indicate few breeding records in south Wales: four each in Gwent and East Glamorgan, 3-5 in Gower, five in Carmarthenshire and six in Brecknockshire.

Breeding Bird Survey: Redstart in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	6 April	Pantygasseg & Newport Wetlands		**16 Nov.**	**Newport Wetlands**
E.GLAMORGAN	5 April	Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve		28 Sept.	Nash Point
GOWER	22 April	Glyncorrwg & Eglwys Nunydd Res.			
CARMARTHEN	5 April	Pentrefelin			
PEMBROKE	8 April	Pengelli		14 Sept.	Skokholm
CEREDIGION	**2 April**	**RSPB Ynys-hir**		24 Sept.	RSPB Ynys-hir
BRECON	8 April	Llanwrthwl & Traeth Mawr		9 Sept.	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	**2 April**	**Welshpool**		6 Sept.	Dolydd Hafren
MEIRIONNYDD	9 April	Waen yr Hydd, Cynwyd		2 Aug.	Mallwyd
CAERNARFON	12 April	Dinorwig Quarry		29 Aug.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	19 April	RSPB South Stack		31 Aug.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	6 April	Chirk Castle		14 Sept.	location not provided
FLINT	9 April	Penycloddiau		24 Aug.	location not provided

ROCK THRUSH *Monticola saxatilis* **BRYCH Y GRAIG**

Rare vagrant from southern Europe. On BBRC list; two previous records.

GWENT: male at Pwll-du Quarry from 12 Oct. to 3 Nov., disappearing just hours before the more patient birders visited en route to the following day's Welsh Ornithological Society conference in nearby Monmouth.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* **CREC YR EITHIN**

Summer breeding visitor; now predominantly a species of upland areas. Declining. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	224	216
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: GWENT: bred at three sites and possibly at two others; E.GLAMORGAN: possibly bred at three sites; GOWER: bred at Cwm Nant y Fedw; PEMBROKE: up to six birds at Brynberian Moor; CEREDIGION: nine singing males at Cwm Brefi, 16 at upper Cwm Doethie, seven along the Camddwr; BRECON: the South Elenydd survey of suitable habitat found 23 (19 males) in 12 of the 25 1-km squares; three territories above the Tarrell valley and three in the Black Mountains; fledged broods at three sites in the Beacons; MONTGOMERY: records from Lake Vyrnwy, Llyn Mawr and Bidno Valley; MEIRIONNYDD: records from 20 sites, many of singing males; family parties above Eisencrug and at Liberty Hall, Berwyn; CAERNARFON: in the Carneddau, confirmed at Bwlch-y-ddeufan and Cwm Eigiau; singles/pairs at nine other sites; DENBIGH: probable or possible breeding at six traditional sites; FLINT: 11 young fledged from four pairs between Moel Famau and Cilcain.

Earliest and latest reports in each county

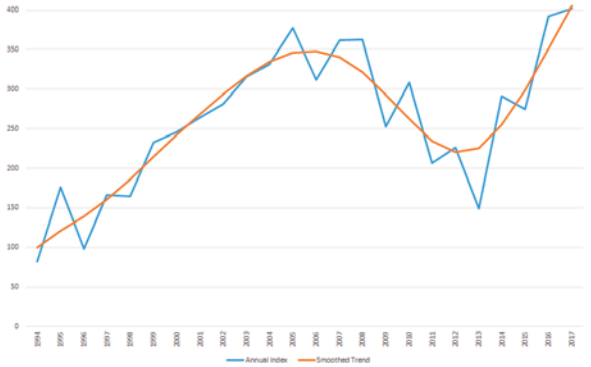
	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	**28 March**	**Blaen Bran**		23 Sept.	Mynydd Llangatwg
E.GLAMORGAN	12 April	Cosmeston Lakes CP		3 Oct.	Cosmeston Lakes CP
GOWER	30 April	Margam Moors		28 Sept.	Rhossili
CARMARTHEN	20 May	Mynydd Pencarreg		2 Oct.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	30 April	Skomer		**23 Oct.**	**Preseli**
CEREDIGION	20 April	Llanrhystud			
BRECON	25 April	Llangasty		9 Sept.	Llangasty
MEIRIONNYDD	24 April	Cwm Hirnant Hill		8 July	Penmaenpool & Berwyn
CAERNARFON	10 April	Aberdaron		6 Oct.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	28 April	RSPB Cors Ddyga		17 Oct.	Breakwater CP, Holyhead
DENBIGH	20 April	RSPB Conwy			
FLINT	21 April	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands		19 Sept.	Connah's Quay NR

STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola* **CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG**

Breeding resident, locally common in coastal areas and spreading inland. Wales Green listed.

	2015	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2252	2785
% of BirdTrack lists	12%	14%

Breeding Bird Survey: Stonechat in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales achieved a new high in 2017, quadruple the 1994 baseline, while registrations on BirdTrack lists also increased on 2016.

Passage (max. counts where provided): GWENT: 10 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 18 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 18 at Kenfig NNR on 25 Aug.; 14 at Sker on 9 Oct.; GOWER: 17 at Margam Moors on 2 Sept.; 21 at The Vile-Rhossili on 28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 18 between Strumble Head and Pwllderi on 8 May; max. day counts of 17 on Skomer on 17 Sept. and 13 on Skokholm on 5 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 10 at the Sychnant Pass on 29 April; 16 on the Great Orme on 28 March and 14 on 12 May; max. day count, 25 on Bardsey on 25 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 12 at Breakwater CP on 17 Oct.; FLINT: 18 at Connah's Quay NR on 16 Dec.

SIBERIAN/STEJNEGER'S STONECHAT *Saxicola maurus/stejnegeri*
CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG SIBERIA/STEJNEGER

Rare vagrant from Siberia, but cannot be safely separated to species level in the field. On BBRC list. Nine previous records.

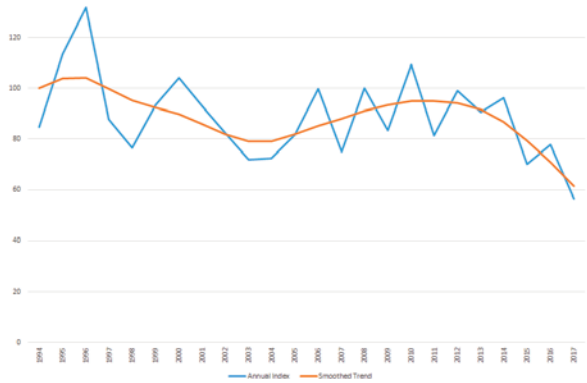
PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 2 Nov.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* **TINWEN Y GARN**

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Locally common, favouring upland areas with sheep-grazed turf. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1312	1420
% of BirdTrack lists	5%	6%

Breeding Bird Survey: Wheatear in Wales, 1994 - 2017



This is a bird in trouble - and anecdotal reports for 2018 suggest that worse may be to come. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hits a new low, 38% below its 1994 level, and qualifies to jump from Green to Red next time Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales is reviewed. Bird Reports indicate Wheatears are absent from many sites in which they were present during the 2007-11 Atlas of Breeding Birds, e.g. only two breeding records each in Gwent and East Glamorgan, and 4-25 territories in well-surveyed areas of Brecon. There were more records in North Wales and on the Pembrokeshire islands but despite a record 38 pairs on Bardsey, only 51 fledged from first broods (1.34 young/nest), with many failures in a wet May and June; second broods did much better.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	11 March	three locations		28 Oct.	Pwll Du
E.GLAMORGAN	11 March	three locations		**19 Nov.**	**Sker**
GOWER	16 March	Mumbles Pier		27 Oct.	Neath estuary
CARMARTHEN	8 March	Pembrey Harbour		25 Oct.	Pal y Cwrt
PEMBROKE	10 March	Skomer		25 Oct.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	**1 March**	**Tanybwlch**		27 Oct.	Llanon
BRECON	12 March	Taihirion		30 Sept.	Llangasty
MONTGOMERY	27 March	Lake Vyrnwy		2 Nov.	Mynydd Waen Fawr
MEIRIONNYDD	22 March	Aberdysynni		6 Oct.	Porthmadog Cob Pools
CAERNARFON	11 March	Great Orme & Black Rock		11 Nov.	Afonwen farm
ANGLESEY	11 March	RSPB South Stack		21 Oct.	Inland Sea
DENBIGH	8 March	Kinmel Bay		9 Oct.	Moel Famau
FLINT	9 March	Rhyl		22 Oct.	RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

Spring passage counts (10+): GWENT: 18 at Trefil on 22 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 30 at Sker on 27 April; CARMARTHEN: 17 at Machynys on 21 April; 20 at Pembrey Burrows and 17 at Pwll on 22 April; 12 at Kidwelly Marsh on 27 April; PEMBROKE: 25 on Skokholm on 31 March and 20 April; 30 at Marloes and 54 on Skomer on 19 April; 88 on Skomer on 5 May; CEREDIGION: 40 at Ynyslas on 18 April; 40 at Glandwr on 23 April; 24 near Llandeiniol on 23 April, 114 on 26th and 62 on 28th; MEIRIONYDD: 17 at Dwyryd saltmarsh on 22 April; 18 at Ynys Crossing on 9 May; CAERNARFON: 12 at Uwchmynydd on 4 April; 11 on the Great Orme on 18 April and 15 on 19th; max. day counts on Bardsey, 258 on 18 April, 268 on 20th and 214 on 23rd; ANGLESEY: 51 in one field at Rhoscolyn on 7 May; DENBIGH: 16 at Moel Famau on 23 April; FLINT: 35 at Penycloddiau on 2 April and 31 here on 22nd; 30 near Rhyl on 29 April.

Return passage counts (10+): PEMBROKE: 44 on 5 Aug. and 20 on 1 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 14 at Dwyryd saltmarsh on 22 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 32 on Bardsey on 13 Aug. and 31 here on 30th.

***O.o. leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear / Tinwen y Garn yr Ynys Las)**

Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race (singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: male on Mynydd Llangatwg on 8 Sept.; female at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 22 Sept.; GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 22 April; 13-15 at Wernffrwd on 22-24 April; three at Weobley Marsh on 2 Sept.; PEMBROKE: daily on Skokholm from 6 April to 15 May with max. day counts of 16 on 19 April and 126 on 20th; The Smalls on 19 April; two at Porthclais on 19 April; 17 at Martins Haven on 22 April; first on Skomer on 13 April, then daily from 16th until 14 May, with peak of seven on 23 April; in autumn on Skokholm between 3 Sept. and 16 Oct. with peak of four on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: most of 60-strong flock at Llanrhystud on 20 April were this race; 36 at RSPB Ynys-hir on 21 April; CAERNARFON: female at Aberdaron on 26 May; ANGLESEY: of 61 birds at Cemlyn on 21 April most were this race; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 13 May; FLINT: two at Gronant on 2 May and singles on five dates to 25th.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus* **BRONWEN Y DWR**

Common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas. In winter some individuals move into the lowlands and also make use of estuaries, rocky coasts and lake edges. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	935	800
% of BirdTrack lists	4%	4%

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: breeding evidence from 12 sites on the R.Honddu, six on the R.Monnow, five on the R.Angidy, two each on the R.Trothy and R.Whitebrook, many pairs having two broods; bred at four other sites; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at seven sites, probable or possible at eight more; GOWER: bred at multiple sites on the R.Afan, at least three on the R.Ffrydwyllt, and at 15 other sites; CARMARTHEN: 27 of 29 known sites in east of county occupied, but only ten successful, and the failed pairs did not try again; pairs on smaller watercourses in Halfway, Capel Isaac and Ffarmers fledged a mean 4.0 young/nest compared to 3.2 on larger rivers; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from two or three suitable sites; BRECON: three pairs bred in Brecon town, and singles at seven other sites; MEIRIONNYDD: of 12 sites, breeding confirmed at two and probable at seven; CAERNARFON: many pairs present on the R.Conwy, R.Ogwen and R.Glaslyn and their tributaries, in the Seiont catchment, and on smaller rivers; fledglings and nests found at eight sites; ANGLESEY: bred successfully in Llangefni, one of the parents had been ringed as a chick near Caernarfon in April 2012; DENBIGH: six confirmed breeding records; FLINT: one confirmed breeding pair.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* **ADERYN Y TO**

Resident, breeding throughout Wales in all counties. Not ubiquitous, however, and absent from many upland settlements. Wales Amber listed.

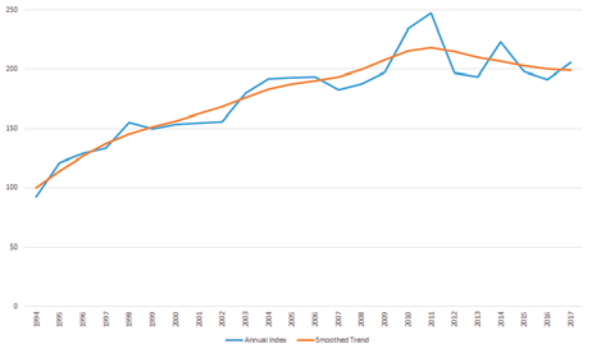
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	6358	6669
% of BirdTrack lists	34%	36%

Until 2010, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales (on page 170) had shown sustained growth, in stark contrast to the UK index, since when the trend has fallen a little. Nonetheless, it remains 99% higher than in 1994.

House Sparrow (Claire Stott)

Large counts (70+) include: CEREDIGION: 120 at Llanrhystud on 28 July; CAERNARFON: 70+ in Hafod Lane, Bangor, in Sept. and Oct.; ANGLESEY: 164 at Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn on 15 July; 113 at Cemlyn on 16 July; DENBIGH: 100-200 regularly in Towyn up to 18 March, 80 here on 30 June and 100-120 between 14 Sept. and year end; FLINT: 84 at Buckley on 17 May.

Breeding Bird Survey: House Sparrow in Wales, 1994 - 2017



TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* **GOLFAN Y MYNYDD**

Breeding resident in small numbers with a patchy distribution. Absent from most western areas. Declining in most areas. Wales Red listed.

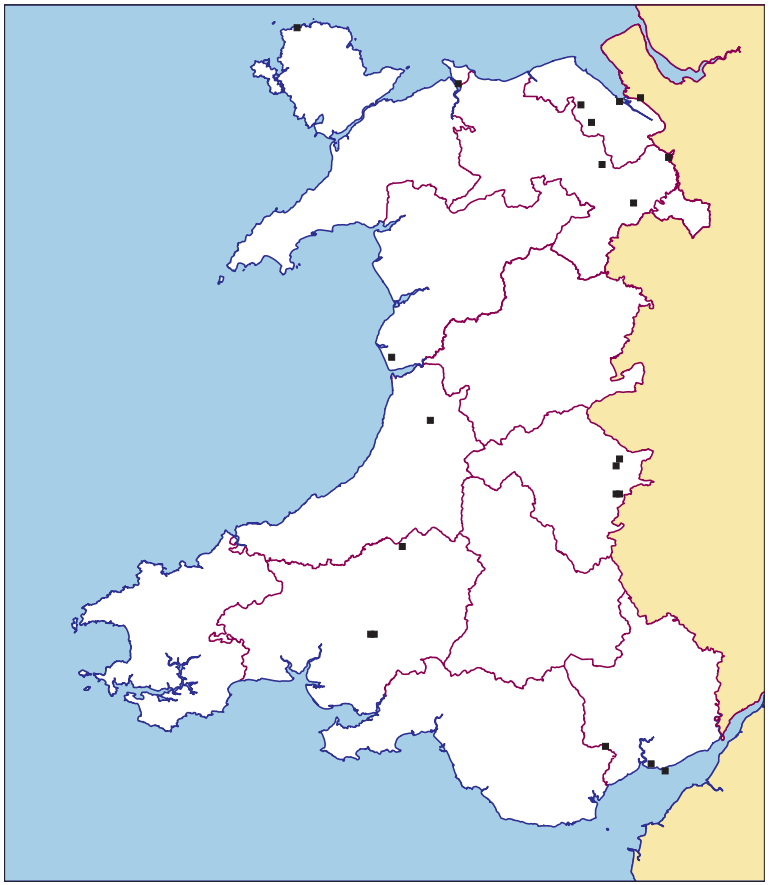
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	31	33
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Precious few breeding records, with single nesting pairs confirmed only in Gower, Brecon and Anglesey, and four at a site in Flintshire.

All records: GWENT: one pair at Porton laid eggs but later deserted; CARMARTHEN: two at Dryslwyn on 21 Jan., four on 28 and 31 March and one on 12 June; PEMBROKE: singles at St. David's Head on 8 April and Skomer farm on 3-5 May; BRECON: pair with two young at Garthbrengy in mid-June, adults seen at a feeder a month later; MONTGOMERY: up to four around Dolydd Hafren from 8 Jan. to 26 March, and on 25 June; 1-2 in a Wern garden in late Feb.; one in a Carno garden from Jan. to mid-March; one at Sarn on 20 June; present in a Churchstoke garden up to 2 July, one in Oct. and multiple birds from 24 Dec.; one at Castle Caereinion on 31 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1-2 on Bardsey in May and 3 June; ANGLESEY: pair bred successfully near Bryngwran; one at Cemlyn on 24 May; DENBIGH: four pairs nested successfully in boxes at Hem House organic farm near Rossett; probably bred at Trevalyn Meadows; records from four other sites; FLINT: regular at Cilcain through the year, but only one other record (in Gronant on 22 April).

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Tree Sparrow (n = 21)



DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* **LLWYD Y GWRYCH**

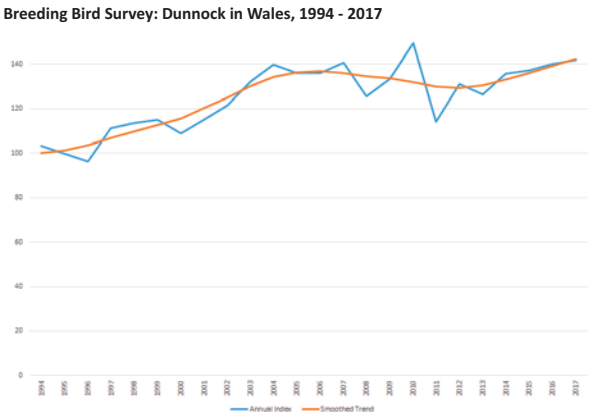
Abundant breeding resident. Passage migrant and possible winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	7814	8194
% of BirdTrack lists	42%	45%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales (on page 172) reached a new peak, 42% above its 1994 level.

Notable counts: GWENT: 10-15 around Caldicot Castle through the year; E.GLAMORGAN: regularly in double figures at Kenfig NNR, max. 18 (11 singing) at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 18 Feb., 13 on 20 March and 20 on 6 Nov.; 20 at Fforest Farm on 13 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 60 territories at Penclacwydd; BRECON: 10 in margins of a Glastir wildbird crop at Llangorse on 2 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 20 on the Little Orme on 13 March; 10 on the Great Orme on 10 Oct., increased to 20 by 27th; max. day count on Bardsey, 26 in early Oct.; ANGLESEY: 23 singing males at RSPB Cors Ddyga; 44 singing males at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: 18 at Nant-y-Glyn on 15 March and 15 on 30 Oct.;

FLINT: 14 at Mold on 23 April.



YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava flavissima* **SIGLEN FELEN**

Passage migrant in decreasingly small numbers, and now sporadic breeding bird. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	220	142
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	<1%

Breeding: two confirmed nests and six possible pairs. GWENT: pairs with young at Llandanfreadd and Llanfair Kilgeddin; possible breeding at Llandenny; CEREDIGION: pair at RSPB Ynys-hir may have attempted to breed; BRECON: two pairs at Glasbury possibly bred; MONTGOMERY: up to two birds at Dolydd Hafren from 19 April to 19 July; FLINT: evidence of breeding at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 29 April.

Notable passage: GWENT: 21 records at Newport Wetlands Reserve in July (max. 15 on 25th), 31 records here in Aug. including seven dates with 10+ birds, a record 40 on 25th, and at least 25 roosted at Uskmouth on 28th; in Sept., peaks of 20 here on 2nd and 4th; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Nash Pt on 25 Aug.; 25 at Ogmore-by-Sea on 26th Aug.; 15-20 at West Aberthaw on 27 Aug.; GOWER: 43 at the Vile-Rhossili on 28 Aug.; RADNOR: 32 roosted at Glasbury on 20 Aug.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	18 April	Llandegfedd Res.		8 Oct.	Black Rock
E.GLAMORGAN	1 May	Cardiff Bay Barrage		17 Sept.	Lavernock Point
GOWER	6 May	The Vile Rhossili		9 Oct.	The Vile Rhossili
CARMARTHEN				18 Oct.	Penclacwydd
PEMBROKE	21 April	Teifi Marshes		**19 Oct.**	**Skomer**
CEREDIGION	1 May	Llanrhystud		27 Sept.	Llanrhystud
BRECON	29 April	Llangorse Lake		3 Oct.	Llangorse Common
MONTGOMERY	19 April	Dolydd Hafren			
CAERNARFON	19 April	Bardsey		19 Sept.	Bardsey
ANGLESEY	**2 April**	**Cemlyn**		18 Sept.	Alaw estuary
DENBIGH	21 April	RSPB Conwy			
FLINT	18 April	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands		30 Sept.	RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands

***M.f. flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail / Siglen Felen Benlas)**

GOWER: one at the Vile-Rhossili on 28 Aug.; PEMBROKE: male on Skomer on 10 May; ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 19 April; male at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 24 April; FLINT: one at Talacre/RSPB Point of Ayr on 22 May.

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola* **SIGLEN SITRAIDD**

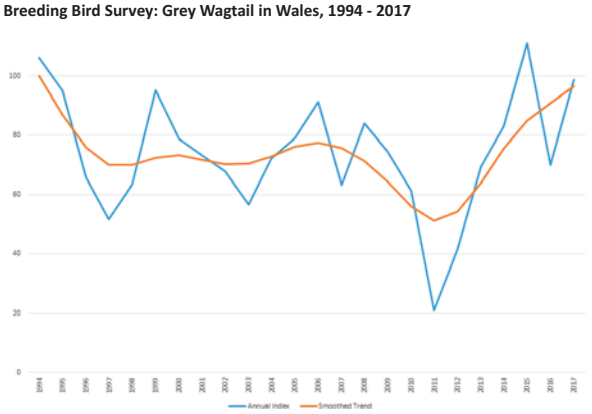
Rare but increasing vagrant. On WRP list. Nine previous records.

CAERNARFON: female at Morfa Madryn NR on 6-7 May.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea* **SIGLEN LWYD**

Locally common breeding resident, mainly along fast-flowing streams in all mainland counties of Wales. Increasing but very scarce on Anglesey. Most move away from hills in the autumn and either emigrate or frequent sites on lower ground. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2095	1750
% of BirdTrack lists	10%	8%



After a worrying decline during the first 18 years of the Breeding Bird Survey, the index for Wales has made a strong recovery during this decade.

Counts (10+ birds): E.GLAMORGAN: 11 in Bridgend town centre on 9 May; 12 at Cardiff Bay Barrage on 12 Sept.; CAERNARFON: on passage on Bardsey from early June, peaking in Sept. with 45 on 1st, 33 on 12th and 26 on 17th.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii* **SIGLEN FRAITH**

Common and widespread breeding resident in many habitats. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. The continental race, White Wagtail, M.a.alba*, is a regular passage migrant, occasionally breeding. Wales Green listed.*

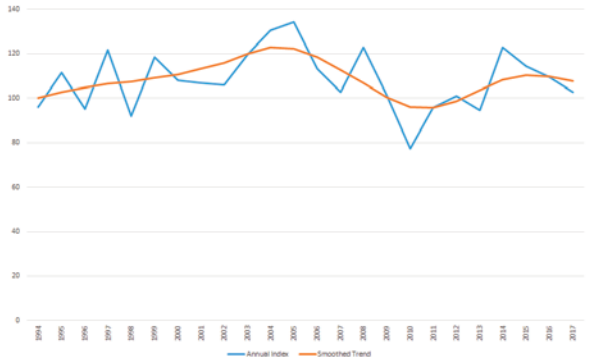
	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	5815	5310
% of BirdTrack lists	30%	28%

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales (on page 174) has fluctuated around a stable mean during the last 23 years, though with a short-term decrease that is also reflected in BirdTrack registrations.

Highest counts (100+) of *yarrellii*: GWENT: 150 at Wentwood on 22 March; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 roosted

in Queen St., Cardiff, on 6 Jan.; 100 in Cardiff city centre on 10 March; PEMBROKE: 100 at Teifi Marshes on 21 April; 420 at Withybush Hospital on 31 Dec.; BRECON: 110 fed at Brecon STW and roosted in town in Feb.; DENBIGH: 100+ roosted at Erlas Hall, Wrexham, on 2 May; 100 in pre-roost assembly at RSPB Conwy on 31 Dec.

Breeding Bird Survey: Pied Wagtail in Wales, 1994 - 2017



M.a.alba **(White Wagtail / Siglen Wen)**

Spring passage: GWENT: 35 records from the coast, mostly in April, of up to six birds, but 16 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 12th and ten on 13th, a late bird here on 10 June; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Rhaslas Pond on 3 and 15 April; up to 15 at Cardiff Bay Barrage until 1 May; GOWER: a few singles in spring; one at Morfa Tip on 14 June; CARMARTHEN: two at Pembrey Harbour on 1 April; one at Kidwelly Marsh on 27 April; five at Pembrey Burrows on 29 April; PEMBROKE: at seven sites between 2 April and 12 May, max. five at Porthclais on 19 April; CEREDIGION: widespread coastal passage from 27 March to 6 May, including 40 at Llanrhystud on 9 April, 50 here on 20th and 30 on 1 May; up to 76 near Llandeiniol on 22-24 April; BRECON: nine on dates between 2 April and 7 May; MONTGOMERY: reported from Dolydd Hafren and Gorn Hill; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Broadwater on 6 April; CAERNARFON: first on Bardsey on 14 March, up to 23 here in April, 12 on 5 May and last on 26th; three singles elsewhere; ANGLESEY: first at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 30 March, then up to 38 here in April; max. day count 13 at Cemlyn on 13 April; 42 between Cemlyn and Hen Borth on 9 April; 50 at Hen Borth on 1 May; smaller numbers through May and a late bird on 27 June; DENBIGH: nine records from RSPB Conwy between 19 March and 9 May, all singles apart from two on two dates; FLINT: four records in spring, max. nine at Talacre on 9 May.

Return passage: GWENT: a few records of up to six; E.GLAMORGAN: six at Gileston Beach on 25 Aug.; one at Aberthaw on 9 Sept.; GOWER: max. 10 at Llandimore Marsh on 9 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: three at Llanelli beach on 28 Aug.; one at Penclacwydd on 31 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 41 on Skokholm, max. 11 on 7 Sept.; one or two elsewhere up to 22 Oct.; BRECON: one at Llangasty on 26 July; MEIRIONNYDD: seven at three sites; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey from 22 Aug. with max. day counts, 110 on 29th, 100 on 31st, 83 on 1 Sept. and 132 on 12th; up to eight elsewhere, the last on 8 Oct.; ANGLESEY: three at Rhoscolyn on 10 Sept.; DENBIGH: 28 at RSPB Conwy between 24 July and 2 Oct., all singles apart from three on one date; FLINT: three at Rhyl on 3 Sept.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi* **CORHEDYDD RICHARD**

Scarce autumn passage migrant.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	13	0
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	0%

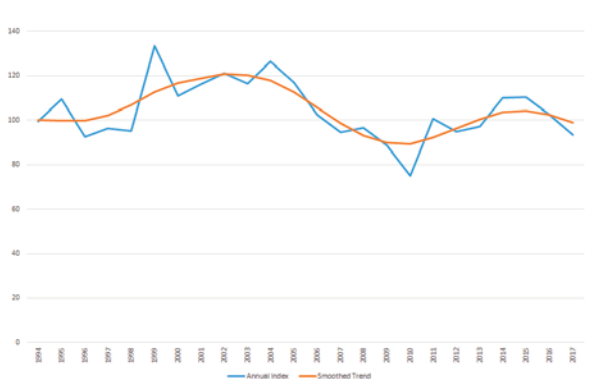
PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 21 Oct.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* **CORHEDYDD Y WAUN**

Widespread and numerous breeding species, especially on moorland. Winter visitor and passage migrant. Most breeding birds are summer visitors. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3869	3923
% of BirdTrack lists	19%	20%

Breeding Bird Survey: Meadow Pipit in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The cyclical nature of Meadow Pipit populations is evident in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which lies at the same level as 1994-96 and 2007.

Selected breeding records from surveys: GWENT: of 18 nests in three locations, eight were predated. Productivity of nine nests averaged 1.4 young/nest (*cf.* 2.3 in 2016); BRECON: at least 208 birds on territory in 22 1-km squares in the Tarrell valley, breeding confirmed in five squares; 275 counted in the South Elenydd survey provided an estimated population of 1047 birds at more than 42 per square km; CAERNARFON: 106 territories on Bardsey, a 35.5% increase on the ten year mean, and at least 110 fledged young.

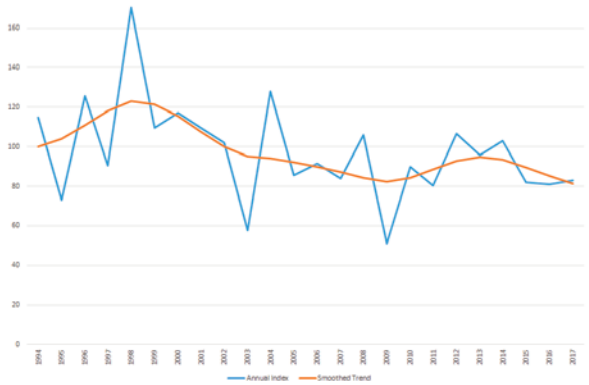
High counts (100+): GWENT: max. day count 200 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) in Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: large counts from Ogmore-by-Sea during 16-24 Sept., max. 1289 on 16th; 120 at Nash Pt on 6 Oct.; 3000 at Lavernock Pt on 18 Oct.; GOWER: 120 at the Vile Rhossili on 18 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 150 east near Pwll on 24 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 110 on Skomer on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 250 at Llanon on 1 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 on the Dwyryd est. on 22 Aug.; CAERNARFON: max. day counts on Bardsey, 278 on 17 Sept., 316 on 26th and 339 on 6 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Llanddyfnanon on 30 March; 100 at RSPB Cors Dyga on 25 Nov.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis* **CORHEDYDD Y COED**

Widely distributed and locally numerous summer visitor. Passage migrant in fairly small numbers, most marked on the south coast in autumn. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	358	340
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	2%

Breeding Bird Survey: Tree Pipit in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been showing a slow decline since late in the last century, and currently lies 19% below its 1994 level.

Earliest and latest reports in each county:

	Earliest	*Site*		*Latest*	*Site*
GWENT	5 April	Mynydd Llangatwg & Blaenserchan		7 Sept.	Goldcliff
E.GLAMORGAN	3 April	Cosmeston Lakes CP		15 Oct.	Cwm Nash
GOWER	9 April	Morfa Bach		9 Sept.	Oxwich Marsh NNR
CARMARTHEN	11 April	Burry Port		13 Aug.	Llanedi
PEMBROKE	18 April	Canaston		2 Sept.	Skomer
CEREDIGION	7 April	Cwm Clettwr NR			
BRECON	5 April	Craig-y-Cilau		12 July	Beacons
MONTGOMERY	**27 March**	**Frochas Common**			
MEIRIONNYDD	21 April	Llandecwyn			
CAERNARFON	7 April	Nantperis		**16 Oct.**	**Bardsey**
ANGLESEY	9 April	Cemlyn			
DENBIGH	6 April	Fenn's Moss		12 July	Llandegla Forest
FLINT	9 May	Talacre		2 July	Nercwys Mountain

OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni* **CORHEDYDD GWYRDDGEFN**

Rare vagrant from Russia. On WRP list; four previous records.

PEMBROKE: one at St Brides on 22-25 Oct. is the first mainland Welsh record.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* **CORHEDYDD Y DWR**

Winter visitor in small numbers, mainly recorded in coastal areas but also, less frequently, inland. Passage migrant in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	164	95
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

First winter period: GWENT: regular at Peterstone Wentlooge between 1 Jan. and 31 March, max. day counts seven on 13 Feb., 10 on 16th, 17 on 2 March and 12 on 31st; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Ogmore est., E.Aberthaw and Nash Pt on various dates from 7 Jan. to 20 March; GOWER: singles at Dalton's Pt on 15 Jan. and Rhossili Bay on 25 March; four at Wernffrwd on 31 March and one on 2 April; CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 5 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 1-4 at Newgale Marsh between 7 Jan. and 5 Feb.; one at Nevern est. on 5 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 1-2 along R.Clettwr between 1 Jan. and 28 March; one at Teifi est. on 22 Jan.; CAERNARFON: singles on the Conwy est. on 7 Jan. and on Bardsey on 28-29 April; ANGLESEY: one at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 2 Jan. and two here on 3 March; one at Red Wharf Bay on 13 Feb.; DENBIGH: one at RSPB Conwy on 11 Jan., then 16 records to 12 April, most of which probably refer to the same bird.

Second winter period: GWENT: five at Peterstone Wentlooge on 25 Oct. and one on 7 Nov.; two at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 17 Nov.; two at Mathern Pill on 19 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: singles at Aberthaw saltmarsh between 26 Oct. and 25 Nov.; at Southerndown Cliffs on 26 Oct.; Ploran Mawr on 29 Nov.; Ogmore est. on 31 Dec.; GOWER: one at Weobley Marsh on 11 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: single at Penclacwydd on four days in Nov.; PEMBROKE: one at Angle Bay on 1 Nov.; CEREDIGION: one at Cors Caron on 28 Oct., one at Teifi est. between 2 and 16 Dec.; two along the R.Clettwr on 30 Oct. and up to four here in Nov. and Dec.; ANGLESEY: one at Penmon Pool on 8 Nov.; up to three at RSPB Cors Ddyga in Nov./Dec.; DENBIGH: two at RSPB Conwy on 28 Dec.; FLINT: one at Flint on 5 Dec.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus petrosus* **CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG**

Breeding resident of rocky coastlines in all coastal counties except Flintshire and Gwent. Winter visitor in small numbers.Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1524	1302
% of BirdTrack lists	8%	7%

Selected breeding records: GWENT: pair probably bred at Denny Island; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at Bendrick Rock (Barry) and Sully beach, probably at Ogmore Caves, and possibly at Cardiff Bay Barrage; GOWER: present at 11 localities around the rocky coast from Broughton Bay to Mumbles Head; bred at Sedger's Bank/Port Eynon; CARMARTHEN: bred at Burry Port and Pembrey Harbours; PEMBROKE: evidence from at least 33 locations, including 24 pairs on Ramsey, 53 on Skokholm and 27 on Skomer; CAERNARFON: at least two pairs bred at Caernarfon foreshore and the Great Orme; three pairs probably bred on the Little Orme and one at Uwchmynydd; present at 10 other suitable localities; 51 territorial males on Bardsey, 17.2% above the ten year mean, and at least 53 juveniles fledged; ANGLESEY: breeding activity at seven sites.

Counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Nash Pt on 1 April; 20 at Sully Beach on 23 Aug.; 13 at E.Aberthaw on 10 Nov.; 25 at Ogmore est. on 11 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 32 on Skokholm on 21 Sept.; 64 on Skomer on 23 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 13 at Breakwater CP on 5 Oct.; 12 at Red Wharf Bay on 2 Dec.

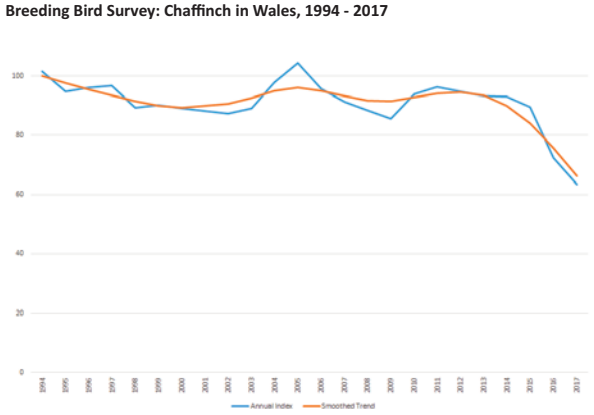
***A.p. littoralis* (Scandinavian Rock Pipit / Corhedydd y Graig Llychlyn)**

All singles unless otherwise stated): GWENT: two at Peterstone Wentlooge on 31 Jan. and five here on 14 Feb.; Black Rock on 6 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay Barrage on 24 March; PEMBROKE: Newgale on 23 March; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 3 March; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 4 April; Towyn on 31 May; FLINT: near Rhyl on 29 Jan.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* **JI-BINC**

Abundant resident, numerous passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	8297	8450
% of BirdTrack lists	44%	46%



Breeding: the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen by one-third since 1994, but almost all of that fall has occurred in the last three years. The decline is steeper in Wales than in most of the rest of the UK, though is similar to southwest England and the English Midlands. The only regular census is on Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, where two territorial pairs is markedly down from 11-12 pairs during 2012-15.

Passage was evident from mid Oct. to late Nov., then a cold-weather movement occurred in late December.

Flocks (150+): GOWER: 335 near Pentre Poeth on 3 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 at Lavernock Pt on 18 Oct. and 360 here on 3 Nov.; 300 at Dunraven on 27 Oct.; GOWER: 300 at Rhossili on 30 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 300 at Penlan Uchaf on 30 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 253 over Skomer on 26 Oct. and 216 here

on 3 Nov.; 300 at Marloes on 23 Dec.; 700 at Landshipping on 24 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 2000 at Llanon on 1 Nov.; BRECON: 250 on grazed fodder crops at Panteg on 16 Feb.; 400 at Pentre Naboth on 21 Feb.; 400+ on winter birdcrop at Pennorth on 14 Nov.; 170 on winter birdcrop at Cwrt-y-prior in Dec.; CAERNARFON: 172 over Bardsey on 12 March; 200 on the Great Orme on 16 Oct. and 2000 westward here on 25th; 800 west over Aber Ogwen on 23 Oct.; 501 over Bardsey on 25 Oct., then 1644, 219 and 177 on three subsequent days, and 165 here on 1 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 198 at Gors Wen on 25 Oct.; 321 over RSPB South Stack on 30 Oct.; 150 at Cemlyn on 4 Nov. and 4200 over here on 6th; 600 feeding in a stubble field in Benllech on 10 Nov.; FLINT: 250 at White Sands on 18 Nov., with 150 here on 14 Dec.; 150 at Plas Bellin on 29 Nov. may have been part of the same flock.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* **PINC Y MYNYDD**

Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	118	147
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	1%

Light passage in late Oct./early Nov. but only a few wintering flocks were recorded, mostly in the east. Large counts (10+): GOWER: 150 at Tredegar Park on 12 March; 26 at Wentwood on 31 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Lavernock Pt on 3 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 10 at Portchclais on 27 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 10 at Llanon on 27 Oct., building to 40 on 1 Nov.; BRECON: 15 at Buckland Wood on 7 Jan.; 20 at Llangyndir on 16 Feb.; 10 on wildbird crop at Pennorth in Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 at Carrog on 18 April; CAERNARFON: day counts of 13, 82, 28, 3, 15 and 58 on Bardsey on 25-30 Oct., and 10 here on 11 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 22 at RSPB South Stack on 30 Oct.; 66 over Cemlyn on 6 Nov.; DENBIGH: 40 at Chirk Castle on 14 Jan. and 1 Feb.; one at Bryneglwys from 10 Sept.; 10 at Nant-y-glyn on 30 Oct.

A male on a feeder in an Efail Isaf garden, E.GLAMORGAN, on 3 May was a late visitor.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* **GYLFINBRAFF**

Resident in small numbers in lowland areas, principally in east Wales and in the Dolgellau area of Meirionnydd (23 pairs in 2016). Some evidence of small-scale immigration from Norway in winter. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	117	144
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Recorded at 10 sites during the breeding season (April to June): GWENT: fledglings seen at Lower Minnetts Wood in June; GOWER: bred successfully at three sites; CARMARTHEN: one in Pembrey Forest on 8 April; BRECON: one at garden feeders in Glasbury during 21 March-30 April; two pairs at The Cwm during 7 May-21 June; MEIRIONNYDD: no data from the Dolgellau breeding stronghold; elsewhere, three colour-ringed birds in a Llanuwchllyn garden in early May; one displaying at Groeslwyd on 4 June; one singing in Morfa Harlech plantation on 8 June; CAERNARFON: one at Ardda, near Trefriw, on 30 April; DENBIGH: one in Llanrwst on 14 May.

First winter period: GWENT: recorded at Slade Wood, Gwern Ddu, Caldicot Castle and Abergavenny; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Llanelltyd on 5 Jan.; CAERNARFON: regular in the Conwy Valley, with a peak of 31 at Llanbedr-y-Cennin on 17 Jan.; 15 at Coed Gaer near Llandudno on 11 Feb. and six here on 15th including a singing bird.

Second winter period: Autumn 2017 saw an exceptional influx from Scandinavia across the UK, with flocks of up to 600 in southern England. Summary here includes only peak counts from each site. GWENT: recorded at Pwll Du, Usk, Trellech Wet Meadow, Llanfihangel Gobion, Newport, Llangybi and Hafod Farm; 38 around the Folly at Pontypool on 1 Nov.; up to 12 at Dingestow; 12 at Cefn Ila on 24 Dec.;

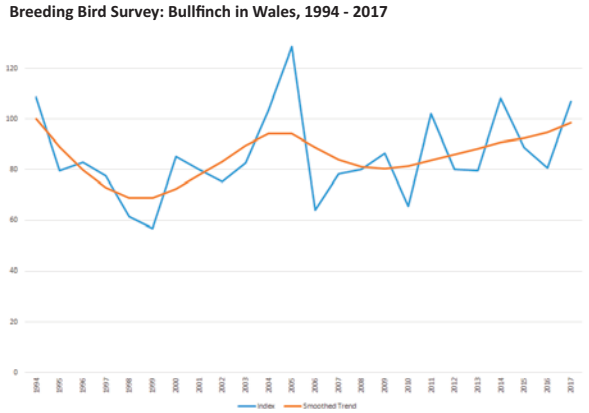
E.GLAMORGAN: eight at Lavernock Pt on 17 Oct.; six at Kenfig NNR on 9 Nov.; one at Edwardsville Woods on 11 Nov.; six at Rudry on 19 Nov.; six at Forest Farm on 25 Nov.; three at Dyffryn Gardens on 26 Nov.; three at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 4 Dec.; 12 at Fforest Ganol on 17 Dec. (7+ present from 4 Nov.); GOWER: three at Middleton on 15 Oct.; one at Glynneath on 18 and 27 Oct.; one at Cimla on 28 Oct.; six at Margam Abbey on 9 Nov.; six in Gowerton on 29 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: seven at Penclacwydd on 12 Nov.; nine at Cynghordy on 12 Nov.; PEMBROKE: one on Skomer on 14 Oct.; one at St Brides on 15 Oct.; singles over Skokholm on 15 and 23 Oct.; one at Redberth on 18 Oct.; 10 at Porthclais on 30 Oct.; one at Sealyham on 3 Nov.; CEREDIGION: one over Talybont on 25 Oct.; one near Trawsgoed on 18 Nov.; BRECON: 10-15 at Brecon Cricket Club on 31 Oct. to 3 Nov., then a single here to 31 Dec. at least; one at Llangorse Common on 3 Nov.; two over Elan village from 22 Nov. to mid Dec.; one at Craig-y-Cilau on 30 Nov.; RADNOR: 2-12 birds at four sites between 14 and 31 Oct.; 1-28 birds at 18 sites in Nov.-Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: up to 16 at Llanelltyd in Nov.-Dec. (max. count on 4 Dec.); CAERNARFON: 10 at Llanrhos cemetery on 27 Oct.; singles over Bardsey on 15 and 16 Oct. and two here on 27 Oct.; two near Ysbyty Ifan on 30 Oct.; three at Caerhun on 11 Nov. and 14 Dec.; eight at Llanbedr-y-Cennin on 31 Dec.; ANGLESEY: one in a Holyhead garden on 5 Jan.; two at Soldier's Pt on 25 Oct.; nine over Cemaes Bay and three at Cemlyn on 6 Oct.; one over Penmon Pool on 8 Nov.; DENBIGH: two near Rhuthun on 2 Feb. and 9 Feb.; two at Gwynfryn on 27 Dec.

Ringing: GWENT: 69 ringed in the Wye Valley, of which only 17 had been ringed previously; CAERNARFON: 11 birds were colour-ringed at Llanbedr-y-Cennin in the first winter period; one ringed here on 22 March was photographed in Mandal, southern Norway, on 25 April.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **COCH Y BERLLAN**

Fairly numerous resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands, other than in some areas of recent afforestation. Unusual on the islands. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2568	3314
% of BirdTrack lists	13%	17%



Bullfinch numbers have recovered across the UK in recent years, almost returning to their 1994 levels in Wales. Their numbers are almost certainly far lower than in previous decades, but there is no Wales-specific data prior to the Breeding Bird Survey.

Large counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Abercwmboi Lake on 2 Feb.; 17 at Pant-yr-Awel on 17 July and 13 here on 15 Aug.; 10 at Pant Norton on 8 Aug.; 12 at Lavernock Pt on 15 Oct.; 16 at Kenfig Pool on 29 Oct.; 15 at Craig Ruperra on 3 Dec.; GOWER: 10 at Mewslade on 27 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Penclacwydd in Nov.; PEMBROKE: 11 at Pantmaenog on 21 Jan.; BRECON: 10 at Cwrt-y-prior and 13 at Crickhowell on 4 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 11 on the Great Orme on 27 Oct.; ANGLESEY: noted as becoming more common; 10 at Penmon Pt on 8 Nov.; 11 at Brynteg on 10 Dec. and 15 here on 26th; DENBIGH: 12 records of 10+ birds, of which 10 came from RSPB Conwy, with a max. count of 28 here on 9 Dec.; FLINT: 12 at Llanfynydd on 19 Jan.; 10 at Pantymwyn on 30 Nov. and 8 Dec.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrina* **LLINOS GOCH**

Scarce migrant. On WRP list; 156 previous records.

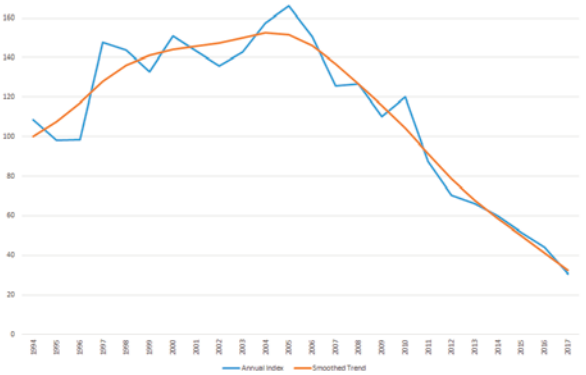
PEMBROKE: immature/female on Skomer on 22-26 June.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris* **LLINOS WERDD**

Resident, formerly common but population has declined following outbreak of Trichomonosis. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3443	2643
% of BirdTrack lists	18%	14%

Breeding Bird Survey: Greenfinch in Wales, 1994 - 2017



The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new low in 2017, 67% below its 1994 level (and having fallen almost four-fold since its 2005 peak). The disease Trichomonosis is the primary reason for this decline, which shows no sign of slowing.

Highest counts (40+): GWENT: 50 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 27 Sept.; GOWER: 40 at Margam Abbey on 12 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 155 roosted in Llandudno on 20 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 50 at Penrhos CP on 14 Oct.; DENBIGH: 41 at Towyn on 13 Aug.; FLINT: 51 on mudflats at Point of Ayr on 23 March.

Ringing: 139 ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR during year (*cf.* 244 in 2016 and 468 in 2015, with similar effort).

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris* **LLINOS Y MYNYDD**

Scarce breeding species, now restricted to a small part of Caernarfonshire; scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in very small numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	140	96
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

Breeding: CAERNARFON: two near Foel Boeth, Migneint, on 19 April; three in Nant Ffrancon on 8 May and one singing here on 31 May.

Non-breeding: CAERNARFON: 14 at Foryd on 5 Jan.; ANGLESEY: one on The Range on 26 Sept.; four at Cemlyn on 6 Nov.; one at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 14 Dec.; DENBIGH: one at Kinmel Bay on 8 March; one at RSPB Conwy on 10 Sept.; FLINT: regular winter flock at Connah's Quay NR peaked at 103 birds on 11 Feb.; in the second winter period, max. count was 70 in Dec.; smaller numbers seen at Rhyl, Gronant and Talacre during each winter period.

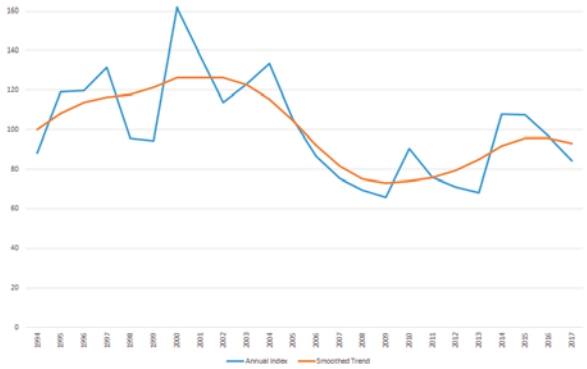
Ringing: FLINT: an individual was re-caught at Connah's Quay NR in 2017 for the third successive winter, having been ringed on Machrihanish, southwest Scotland, in Oct. 2014.

LINNET *Linaria cannabina* **LLINOS**

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	3193	3080
% of BirdTrack lists	16%	16%

Breeding Bird Survey: Linnet in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Having experienced an increase in the first decade of the Breeding Bird Survey and a dip in the second, the survey's third decade sees the index for Wales at 93% of its 1994 level.

Breeding surveys: PEMBROKE: 59 pairs on Ramsey; BRECON: 11 territories in nine sq. km of Tarrell Valley; CAERNARFON: 41 pairs on Bardsey, 46% above the 2008-17 average, fledging 114 young.

Counts (100+) in first winter period: GWENT: 100 at Triley on 26 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: 121 at Kidwelly Quay on 8 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 100 at Llanerchaeron on 12 Feb.; 350 at Llanrhystud on 26 March and 180 here on 22 Sept.; BRECON: 200 in a weedy field at Priory Groves on 11 Feb.; CAERNARFON: four day counts >200 on Bardsey in April, peaking at 320 on 9th; DENBIGH: 100 on weedy fallow near Rhuthun on 26 March; 100+ on weedy fallow at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 5 April; FLINT: 301 at Talacre gas terminal on 15 Jan.

Counts (100+) in second winter period: GWENT: 110 at St Brides Wentlooge on 13 Aug.; 100 at Bishton on 17 Aug.; 200 on stubble at Pen y lan on 1 Sept.; 150 at Llangybi on 17 Sept., increasing to 200 on 24th; E.GLAMORGAN: 217 over Ogmore-by-Sea in two hours on 22 Sept. and 142 here on 24th; 100 at Nash Pt on 17 Sept.; 150 at Gileston on 12 Oct.; 120 at Kenfig NNR on 28 Nov.; GOWER: 600 at Rhossili on 8 Oct., then 170 here on 17 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Penlan Uchaf on 30 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Sprinkle on 12 Aug.; 200 at Lydstep on 17 Aug.; 142 at Martins Haven on 17 Sept.; 177 over Skomer on 25 Sept.; 239 over Skokholm on 7 Oct. and 113 here on 24 Nov.; BRECON: 250 in oilseed rape stubble at Pennorth in Sept.; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, 132 on 31 July, 194 on 13 Aug., 192 on 25th and 270 on 1 Sept.; 150 at Glan-y-môr Elias on 19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 130 at Benllech on 21 Dec.; DENBIGH: 162 at Kinmel Bay STW on 13 Aug.; FLINT: 150 at Gronant/Talacre in July; 280 at Connah's Quay NR on 18 Sept.

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea* **LLINOS BENGOCH**

Scarce vagrant, on WRP list. 34+ previous records since 2002.

CAERNARFON: six on the Great Orme on 8 April; one on Bardsey on 11 April.

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret* **LLINOS BENGOCH LEIAF**

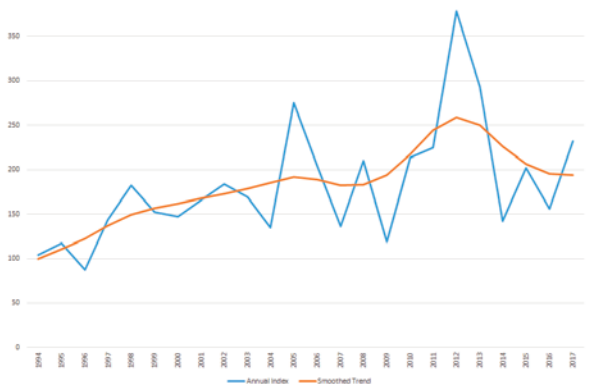
Partial migrant, widely distributed as a breeding bird. Passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	612	615
% of BirdTrack lists	2%	3%

Numbers monitored by the Breeding Bird Survey (on page 182) were on a slow, upward trajectory, but have fallen back slightly in the last four years. The trend index is 94% higher than its 1994 level.

Large counts (15+) in first winter period: GWENT: 50 at Slade Wood on 4 Jan.; 60 at South Sebastopol on 5 March; CARMARTHEN: 26 at Dryslwyn on 13 Jan.; BRECON: 30 at Ffrwdgrech Ind. Estate on 1 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 at Celyn on 2 April; CAERNARFON: 20 at Cors Bodygynydd on 10 April; 23 on Bardsey on 1 May and 30 here on 4th; DENBIGH: more widespread than in recent years but numbers still low compared to a decade ago; 22 at Chirk Castle on 3 Feb.; 50 at Tanyfron (Wrexham) on 29 Jan.; 60 with 50 Goldfinches at Brymbo on 9 Feb.; FLINT: 25 on Penycloddiau on 2 April.

Breeding Bird Survey: Lesser Redpoll in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Large counts (15+) in second winter period: GWENT: 30 at Rudry Common on 1 Oct.; 45 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Uskmouth) on 27 Oct.; 20 at Pontypool Folly on 1 Nov.; 60 at Wentwood in Nov. and Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 70 at Wern Ddu on 30 Sept.; 30 at Garwnant on 2 Dec.; BRECON: 100 at Coed Carno on 18 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 21 on Bardsey on 25 Oct., 40 on 26th and 46 on 30th; DENBIGH: 16 at Chirk Castle on 20 Sept.; FLINT: 15 at Connah's Quay NR on 20 Dec. and at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21 Dec.

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* **GYLFINGROES**

Increasing resident species although numbers fluctuate; occasional irruptive immigrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	149	265
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding: GWENT: bred at Wentwood and possibly at seven other sites; PEMBROKE: pair nested successfully in the north of the county; CEREDIGION: bred at Allt-y-Crib, Talybont, and at Cross Inn forest; BRECON: fledged juveniles at Talybont Res. and Llaneglwys; MEIRIONNYDD: present in Bod Petryal; CAERNARFON: present in Coed Gwydir and near Bryn Llech, Migneint; DENBIGH: one pair confirmed in Clocaenog Forest.

Large counts (25+): GWENT: flocks in Wentwood included 21, 87 and 63 on 31 Oct., 80 (at Cadira Beeches) on 2 Nov., 35 (at Little Oak) on 3 Nov., 45 on 3 Dec., 30 on 9th and 43 on 19th; E.GLAMORGAN: 75 at Garwnant on 5 Nov.; CEREDIGION: up to 30 at Talybont throughout the year; RADNOR: max. 100 in Radnor Forest on 22 Jan.; DENBIGH: 50+ at Tafarn-y-Gelyn on 17 Nov. and Y Foel on 29 Nov.; FLINT: 34 at Penycloddiau on 9 April; 30+ in Nercwys Forest on 24 Oct.

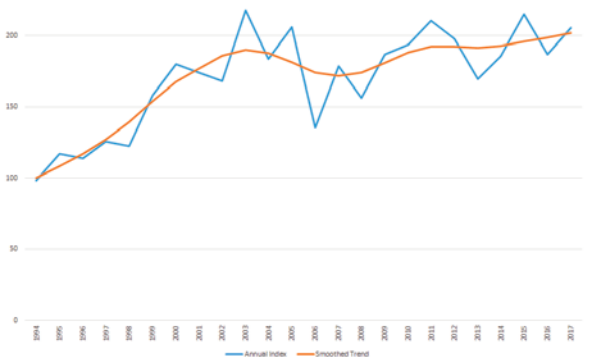
GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* **NICO**

Resident, summer visitor and passage migrant; possibly winter visitor in small numbers. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	7819	8276
% of BirdTrack lists	42%	45%

Following a sustained rise in the late 1990s, the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has continue to climb, albeit more slowly since 2000, reaching an all-time high in 2017. The population has more than doubled since 1994, though this increase is less than in the other UK nations. Counts from bird reports suggest a notable influx in the second half of September.

Breeding Bird Survey: Goldfinch in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Flocks of 100+ on spring passage: PEMBROKE: 100+ near Fishguard on 3 April; CAERNARFON: 358 on Bardsey on 16 April and 100 here on 20th.

Flocks of 100+ on return passage: GWENT: 200 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 27 Aug.; 200 at Pen-y-fan Pond on 7 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Lavernock LNR on 16 Sept.; 100 at Gileston on 17 Sept.; 220 in three hours over Ogmore-by-Sea on 24 Sept.; 400 at Ty'n-y-caeau Farm on 6 Oct.; 1000 at Lavernock Pt on 18 Oct.; 350 over Dunraven on 27 Oct.; GOWER: max. 232 at Berthlwyd saltmarsh on 24 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Pembrey Burrows on 26 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Castlemartin on 23 Sept.; BRECON: flock of 150+ at Llangasty in Aug.-Sept. (max. 400 on 22 Sept.); CAERNARFON: 293 on Bardsey on 25 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 150 at Brynteg on 3 Sept. and 250 here on 19th; 100 at Point Lynas on 17 Sept.; DENBIGH: 100 at feeders in a Pentrefelin garden on 1 Oct.; FLINT: 100 in Rhyl on 9 and 23 Sept.; 100 at Connah's Quay NR between 27 Sept. and 11 Oct., max. 150 on 3 Oct.; 200 at Talacre on 29 Sept.

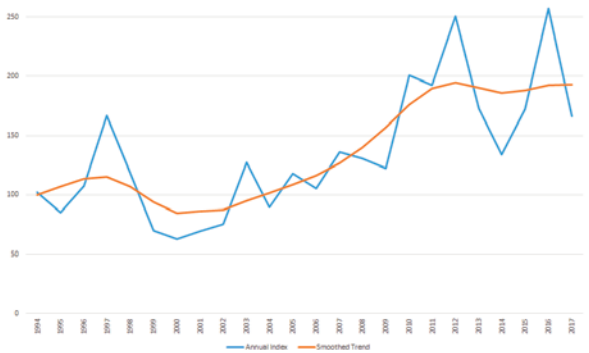
Ringing: GWENT: 118 ringed in an Ysgyryd Fach garden in Oct.-Nov.; DENBIGH: 357 (non-pulli) ringed at a Glan Conwy site during the year, including 33 on 23 Oct.

SISKIN *Spinus spinus* **PILA GWYRDD**

Increasing breeding species; numerous winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	1866	1837
% of BirdTrack lists	9%	9%

Breeding Bird Survey: Siskin in Wales, 1994 - 2017



Some boom and bust years this decade have caused the Breeding Bird Survey index to level out, in contrast to falls in other parts of the UK. It now lies 93% above its 1994 level.

Large counts (60+): GWENT: 200 at Wentwood on 5 Oct.; 85 in the Monnow Valley in Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 over Lavernock Pt on 18 Oct.; 150 at Dunraven on 27 Oct.; GOWER: 60+ at Cwmafon on 15 Jan.; 71 ringed at Oxwich Marsh NNR on 23 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 70 in Carmarthen town on 26 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 100+ at Llanrhystud and RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: 100+ in Coed Carno on 26 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 61 on Bardsey on 18 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 109 at RSPB South Stack on 18 Oct.; FLINT: 200 near Bwlchgwyn on 6 Feb. but fewer records from gardens than usual.

Ringing: GOWER: 218 caught during the year, a 45% increase on 2016; 226 caught in Crynant during the year, of which 88 were on 19 Aug. alone, including 72 juveniles.

YELLOW-RUMPED (MYRTLE) WARBLER *Setophaga coronata* **TELOR TINFELEN**

Exceptional vagrant from North America, on BBRC list. One previous record.

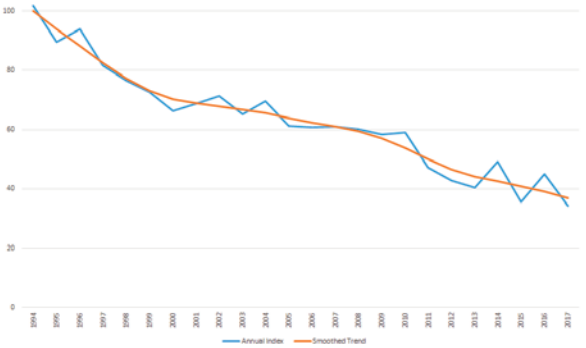
PEMBROKE: male sang in the courtyard of Skokholm bird observatory on 18 June and was later ringed.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella* **BRAS MELYN**

Declining as a resident breeding species over large parts of Wales. Wales Red listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	281	226
% of BirdTrack lists	1%	1%

Breeding Bird Survey: Yellowhammer in Wales, 1994 - 2017



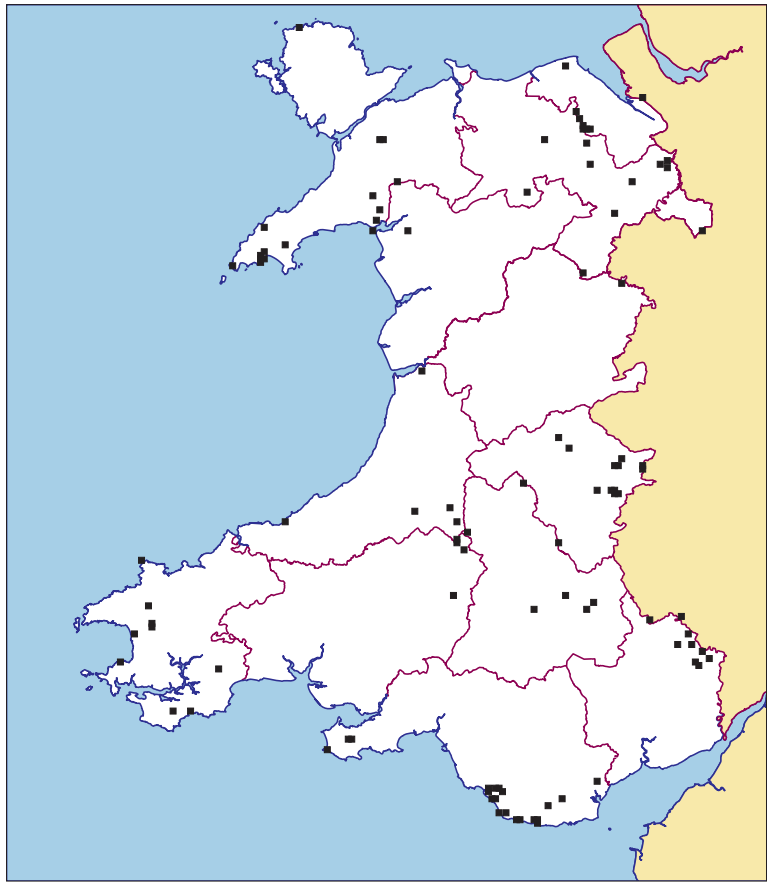
The decline in Yellowhammers continues, with the Breeding Bird Index now at 37% of its 1994 baseline and the sample size approaching a level at which it will no longer be able to produce a meaningful graph.

Breeding: GWENT: possibly bred at six sites; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at two sites and probably at a further three; GOWER: bred at two sites, present at seven others; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at four sites; CEREDIGION: 1-3 males at three sites; BRECON: 18 singing males; MEIRIONNYDD: present at four sites; CAERNARFON: pairs or singles in suitable habitat at 12 sites on Llŷn and at three sites in the Llanberis area; ANGLESEY: two pairs at Cors Goch; singing male at Mynydd Bodafon; DENBIGH: probably bred at two locations, though singing males at several more; FLINT: probably bred at one site.

Large counts (10+): E.GLAMORGAN: 50 at Dunraven on 28 Jan. and 6 Feb.; 30 at Southerndown on 24 Feb.; 15 at Norton on 8 Aug.; BRECON: 130 on a small area of spring-sown barley at Pencaemaen (planted under Glastir agri-environment scheme) in Jan., reducing to 60 and 40 in Feb. and March; 90 at Cwrt-y-prior and 25 at Pennorth in late Dec., both in Glastir wildbird crops; MEIRIONNYDD: up to 10 fed in a garden at Ynys Crossing in Feb.-March and Nov.-Dec.; ANGLESEY: max. count 11 in Jan. at a garden feeder where birds were present all year; 11 at Brynteg on 21 June and 12 here on 1 and 5 July; Markedly fewer records from DENBIGH and FLINT, with smaller geographic distribution noted than previous years.

All BirdTrack records in 2017:

Yellowhammer (n = 103)



REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus* **BRAS Y CYRS**

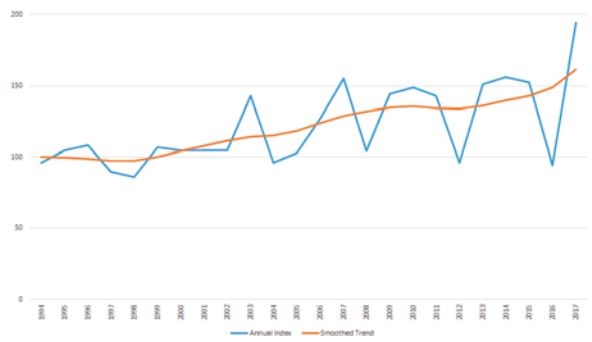
Fairly common resident breeding species, mainly in waterside habitats; evidence of a small autumn emigration. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	2168	2113
% of BirdTrack lists	11%	11%

Individual year counts in the Breeding Bird Survey fluctuate considerably but that for 2017 (on page 186) was the highest since the BBS started, and also helped the smoothed trend to a new high, 62% above its 1994 baseline.

Large counts (20+): GWENT: 40 at Newport Wetlands on 6 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 21 at Dunraven on 28 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 30 at Cross Inn forest in Aug.; BRECON: up to 30 in winter birdcrop (planted under Glastir) at Pencaemaen; 60 in wildbird crops at Pennorth on 17 Nov.; 20 in wildbird crops at Cwrt-y-prior on 20 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 52 on Bardsey on 25 Oct., 31 on 26th and 64 on 30th, the latter being the second highest count on the island ever (*cf.* 70 in 1964).

Breeding Bird Survey: Reed Bunting in Wales, 1994 - 2017



DARK-EYED JUNCO *Junco hyemalis* **JYNCO LLYGATDDU**

Rare vagrant from North America. On BBRC list; one previous record.

Remarkably, a species with just one previous Welsh record (in 1975) occurs twice in four days! PEMBROKE: male on Skomer on 7-8 May; MEIRIONNYDD: one photographed in a Dolgellau garden, feeding on dandelion seed heads, on 12 May.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus* **BRAS Y GOGLEDD**

Uncommon but regular passage migrant in small numbers, especially in autumn, and an occasional winter resident. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	94	0
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	0%

First winter period: PEMBROKE: at Marloes throughout Jan. (max. 10+ on 1st); one at Plumstone Mountain on 2 Jan.; two on Skokholm on 23 March; CAERNARFON: three on the Great Orme on 11 March; two on Bardsey on 6 April; ANGLESEY: singles on The Range on 27 Feb., 14 March and 26 April; two at Cemlyn on 11 March; three at Breakwater CP on 31 March; one on the Alaw est. on 1 April; one over Cemlyn on 16 April.

Second winter period: PEMBROKE: two at Marloes on 25 Nov.; singles on Skokholm on 9 Oct. and 13 Nov., two on 16th, four on 19th, singles on 20th and 23rd and three on 24th; one on Skomer on 6 Nov.; two at Dale on 25 Nov.; CEREDIGION: one at Llanon on 27 and 29 Oct.; CAERNARFON: singles on Bardsey on 12 and 25 Sept. and 20 Oct., and two on 27 and 30 Oct.; ANGLESEY: two on The Range on 24-26 Sept.; one at Point Lynas on 21 Sept.; one at Mynydd Bodafon on 25 Sept.; seven at Cemlyn on 18 Oct. and one here on 6 Nov.; one over Penmon Pt on 22 Dec.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis* **BRAS YR EIRA**

Regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.

	2016	2017
No of BirdTrack records	147	97
% of BirdTrack lists	<1%	<1%

First winter period (all records are single birds unless otherwise stated): GOWER: Whiteford Sands from 1 Jan. to 1 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: Llansteffan on 4-5 March; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 28 Jan.; Borth from 30 Jan. to 4 March (two here on 18 Jan.); CAERNARFON: three around the mouth of the R.Conwy from 1 Jan. to 7 March; four at Black Rock on 11-12 March; Carnedd Llewelyn on 25 March; FLINT: up to five at Point of Ayr between 16 Jan. and 23 March, ranging west to Gronant in early Feb.; one at White Sands on 2 Feb.

Second winter period: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 22-29 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: Dunraven on 18 Oct.; GOWER: Port Eynon on 21 Oct.; Rhossili Down on 22 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: Garreg Lwyd on 29 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 3 Nov.; three at St David's Head on 8 Nov.; two at Fishguard Harbour on 16 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 27 Oct.; Ynyslas on 24 Nov.; BRECON: six at Corn Du summit on 12 Dec.; CAERNARFON: over Bardsey on 27 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Bull Bay on 1 Nov.; DENBIGH: up to two at Kinmel Bay in Dec.

Snow Bunting (Jeff Slocombe)

ESCAPES

The following species were reported to county recorders.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* **ALARCH DDU**
E.GLAMORGAN: one at Cardiff Bay during 10 May to 27 July; BRECON: one at Llangorse Lake on 10-12 March and 7-8 May; MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Coed y Dinas from 1 June to 2 July and on 25 Nov., then at Dolydd Hafren on 26-30 Nov.; FLINT: up to four at various sites in the upper Dee est. throughout the year.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* **GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF**
FLINT: three at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 17 Dec.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* **GWYDD BENRHESOG**
GWENT: one at Magor Marsh on 24 April; E.GLAMORGAN: one at The Watermill on 11 May.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* **ALARCHWYDD**
GWENT: one at Parc Bryn Bach on 14 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: three on the R.Taff and at Coed Craig Ruperra during 27 Oct. to 12 Dec.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* **GŴYDD YR EIRA**
E.GLAMORGAN: one at Flemingston Moor on 17 March; GOWER: one at Kenfig Ind. Estate on 29 April; CEREDIGION: two at Ystrad Caron on 4 Jan.; up to four at Llyn Eiddwen during the year; CEREDIGION/MONTGOMERY: two at RSPB Ynys-hir and one in the upper Dyfi est. on several dates the year; CAERNARFON: three at RSPB Morfa Dinlle on 27 Sept. (presumed same as Anglesey); ANGLESEY: three on the Inland Sea from 30 Aug. moved to Alaw est. on 16 Sept.; two on Llyn Trafwll on 4 and 17 Oct. and one at Llyn Llywenan on 13 Nov. probably the same individuals.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* **GŴYDD FRONGOCH**
GWENT: one at Parc Bryn Bach on 3 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Caerphilly Moat on 28-29 Dec.; CEREDIGION/MONTGOMERY: one with the Barnacle Goose flock in the Dyfi est. during Sept.-Dec., as in 2016.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor* **HWYADEN CHWIBANOG FECHAN**
CEREDIGION: two at Teifi Marshes on 2 Dec.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* **HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN**
FLINT: one at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR between 20 June and 9 July.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* **HWYADEN FWSG**
GWENT: one at Old Cwmbran on 14 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Tirfounder Fields on 7 Jan.; one at Caerphilly Moat from 11 March to 14 May; one at Clydach Vale CP on dates from Feb. to Dec.; at Parc Taf Bargoed during April to Dec., with a second bird in last four weeks; BRECON: up to three on the canal near Brecon Theatre during the year; one on the R.Wye at Glasbury in both winter periods, and at Pipton on 20 April.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* **HWYADEN COED**
GWENT: two on the Monmouth-Brecon Canal on 3 Dec.

CHILOE WIGEON *Mareca sibilatrix* **CHWIWELL MAGELLAN**
E.GLAMORGAN: two on Kenfig Pool on 10 Sept.

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* **GWALCH HARRIS**
E.GLAMORGAN: one seen at various locations along coast during Aug. to Nov.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae* **FFESANT AMHERST**
CEREDIGION: one at Hafod estate on 16 April.

SACRED IBIS *Threskiornis aethiopicus* **IBIS CYSEGREDIG**
MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Coed y Dinas on 10 Aug.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos* **ERYR EURAID**
CEREDIGION: the escaped bird, nicknamed 'Eddie' and present in the county since 2011, was seen on a number of dates in the Cors Caron area.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* **ERYRDYLLUAN EWROP**
MEIRIONNYDD: one dead on the A487 at Maentwrog on 30 Dec. may have been the escaped individual seen around Blaenau Ffestiniog for several years.

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Ringing Report for Wales 2016 and 2017

Lee Barber, British Trust for Ornithology

The ringing report was absent from the *Welsh Bird Report* last year, but we have included a summary for 2016 this year. This report shows the ringing totals for 2016 and 2017 and the selected recoveries for both years.

Ringing trends

It is encouraging to see an increase in the number of birds ringed since 2000, with a marked increase since 2014. Wales accounts for roughly 7% of the overall British and Irish ringing total (*cf.* England 75%, Scotland 15%, Rep. Ireland, 2%, Northern Ireland 1% and Isle of Man 1%) – using 2016 as an example. This is partly due to the lower number of ringers in Wales.

A summary of the number of pulli and full grown birds ringed since 2000 is shown in the table below.

Year	Full grown	Pulli	Total
2017	58,509	19,849	78,358
2016	57,667	18,926	76,593
2015	53,166	21,174	74,340
2014	54,529	19,637	74,166
2013	42,070	15,813	57,883
2012	34,185	15,547	49,732
2011	43,501	16,830	60,331
2010	44,563	18,424	62,987
2009	32,485	14,932	47,417
2008	27,892	15,394	43,286
2007	26,252	16,269	42,521
2006	23,086	17,415	40,501
2005	27,791	16,596	44,387
2004	27,146	16,364	43,510
2003	24,737	14,405	39,142
2002	25,441	13,762	39,203
2001	16,727	8297	25,024
2000	14,587	9462	24,049
Total	**634,334**	**289,096**	**923,430**

Captures of fully-grown (FG) Blue Tit (+1517), Dunlin (+726), Great Tit (+321), Willow Warbler (+191), Bullfinch (+180) and Pied Flycatcher (+176) increased greatly in 2017 compared to 2016. In particular, it is good to see Willow Warbler and Bullfinch increases as the ringing rates for these species across the UK have been in decline for some time. At the other end of the scale captures of adult Sedge Warbler (-602), Lesser Redpoll (-339), Storm Petrel (-302), Chaffinch (-262) and Greenfinch (-254) were down compared to 2016. Reports of *Trichomonosis* are still common, which can greatly affect finch numbers, but the reduction in Lesser Redpoll could be due to mild winters meaning they stayed farther north so there was less distance to travel on their return journey.

Birds ringed as chicks (pulli) have also increased but at a slower rate than fully-grown birds and there was even a decrease in 2016 of 2248 birds from the previous year. The 2017 pulli totals have not returned to the 2015 figure of 21,174. Some of the species ringed less frequently were Black-headed Gull (-224), Herring Gull (-219), Redstart (-198), Manx Shearwater (-108) and Swallow (-103).

It is hard to differentiate between ringer effort and natural bird abundance, so two BTO schemes try to standardise 'effort' giving more accurate abundance figures. These schemes are Constant Effort Site (CES) and RAS (Retrapping Adults for Survival). Ten CES and 28 RAS studies operated in Wales in 2017. In addition, Welsh ringers collect very useful data outside of these projects, which include colour ringing, satellite and radio tagging projects.

The table below summarises the number of full grown and pulli of each species ringed in 2016 and 2017.

Number of birds ringed per species

Ringing totals	2016			2017			Year total diff
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Brent Goose	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Canada Goose	255	0	255	207	0	207	-48
Greylag Goose	0	0	0	3	2	5	5
White-fronted Goose	14	0	14	0	0	0	14
Mute Swan	19	33	52	21	42	63	168
Shelduck	41	0	41	22	0	22	-19
Mandarin Duck	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Wigeon	18	0	18	0	0	0	-18
Mallard	16	1	17	17	0	17	0
Teal	39	0	39	8	0	8	-31
Goosander	9	13	22	3	0	3	-19
Red Grouse	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Storm Petrel	1095	8	1103	793	9	802	-301
Fulmar	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Manx Shearwater	2439	697	3136	2440	589	3029	-107
Little Grebe	2	0	2	4	0	4	2
Great Crested Grebe	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Grey Heron	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Little Egret	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Gannet	63	0	63	47	0	47	-16
Shag	25	377	402	25	319	344	-58
Cormorant	1	262	263	0	356	356	93
Osprey	0	10	10	0	10	10	0
Sparrowhawk	24	0	24	22	0	22	-2
Goshawk	0	65	65	1	41	42	-23
Hen Harrier	0	0	0	0	9	9	9
Red Kite	0	5	5	0	18	18	13
Buzzard	2	6	8	6	14	20	12
Water Rail	7	0	7	6	0	6	-1
Moorhen	10	0	10	6	1	7	-3
Coot	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Oystercatcher	604	15	619	391	12	403	-216
Lapwing	24	24	48	38	5	43	-5
Golden Plover	79	0	79	159	0	159	80
Grey Plover	6	0	6	1	0	1	-5
Ringed Plover	254	10	264	107	5	112	-152
Little Ringed Plover	0	4	4	6	3	9	5
Whimbrel	57	0	57	49	0	49	-8
Curlew	170	7	177	101	10	111	-66

Ringing totals	2016			2017			Year total diff
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Bar-tailed Godwit	16	0	16	5	0	5	-11
Black-tailed Godwit	5	0	5	1	0	1	-4
Turnstone	119	0	119	44	0	44	-75
Knot	56	0	56	38	0	38	-18
Ruff	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Curlew Sandpiper	6	0	6	1	0	1	-5
Sanderling	133	0	133	203	0	203	70
Dunlin	2239	0	2239	2965	0	2965	726
Purple Sandpiper	1	0	1	3	0	3	2
Little Stint	0	0	0	5	0	5	5
Woodcock	645	0	645	560	0	560	-85
Jack Snipe	113	0	113	106	0	106	-7
Snipe	149	0	149	235	0	235	86
Common Sandpiper	22	5	27	6	0	6	-21
Green Sandpiper	10	0	10	3	0	3	-7
Redshank	513	0	513	364	0	364	-149
Greenshank	5	0	5	1	0	1	-4
Kittiwake	66	59	125	36	22	58	-67
Black-headed Gull	1	533	534	120	309	429	-105
Great Black-backed Gull	15	148	163	7	121	128	-35
Herring Gull	22	891	913	55	672	727	-186
Lesser Black-backed Gull	93	372	465	131	442	573	108
Sandwich Tern	11	0	11	10	0	10	-1
Little Tern	2	157	159	2	130	132	-27
Roseate Tern	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Common Tern	31	427	458	13	469	482	24
Arctic Tern	22	400	422	23	596	619	197
Great Skua	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Guillemot	73	663	736	93	899	992	256
Razorbill	68	380	448	60	421	481	33
Black Guillemot	0	4	4	1	3	4	0
Puffin	63	15	78	69	54	123	45
Stock Dove	16	33	49	11	28	39	-10
Woodpigeon	12	9	21	18	9	27	6
Collared Dove	10	2	12	17	0	17	5
Cuckoo	3	1	4	3	0	3	-1
Barn Owl	39	226	265	41	656	697	432
Tawny Owl	15	21	36	21	40	61	25
Little Owl	1	0	1	1	3	4	3
Long-eared Owl	2	2	4	3	5	8	4
Short-eared Owl	3	11	14	2	10	12	-2
Nightjar	48	23	71	72	33	105	34
Swift	2	2	4	1	4	5	1
Kingfisher	23	0	23	28	0	28	5
Great Sp Woodpecker	127	0	127	171	0	171	44
Green Woodpecker	4	0	4	2	0	2	-2
Kestrel	2	76	78	1	75	76	-2

Ringing totals	2016			2017			Year total diff
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Merlin	2	0	2	1	0	1	-1
Hobby	0	24	24	1	10	11	-13
Peregrine	0	20	20	0	17	17	-3
Red-backed Shrike	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Jay	39	0	39	30	0	30	-9
Magpie	43	18	61	29	7	36	-25
Chough	1	221	222	3	186	189	-33
Jackdaw	32	45	77	46	48	94	17
Rook	7	6	13	5	7	12	-1
Carrion Crow	3	41	44	3	15	18	-26
Raven	2	9	11	0	2	2	-9
Waxwing	0	0	0	89	0	89	89
Coal Tit	836	40	876	706	103	809	-67
Marsh Tit	37	5	42	44	2	46	4
Willow Tit	50	16	66	34	21	55	-11
Blue Tit	3811	2135	5946	5328	2392	7720	1774
Great Tit	1662	1006	2668	1983	1181	3164	496
Bearded Tit	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Skylark	52	14	66	43	4	47	-19
Sand Martin	173	4	177	145	0	145	-32
Swallow	2979	768	3747	2883	665	3548	-199
House Martin	68	2	70	132	3	135	65
Cetti's Warbler	113	1	114	158	0	158	44
Long-tailed Tit	897	0	897	863	0	863	-34
Willow Warbler	2125	43	2168	2316	28	2344	176
Chiffchaff	2474	19	2493	2560	19	2579	86
Wood Warbler	16	93	109	8	87	95	-14
Bonelli's Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
W. Bonelli's Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Radde's Warbler	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Pallas's Warbler	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Yellow-browed Warbler	47	0	47	8	0	8	-39
Greenish Warbler	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Sedge Warbler	2476	1	2477	1874	3	1877	-600
Reed Warbler	1779	9	1788	1685	15	1700	-88
Marsh Warbler	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Melodious Warbler	2	0	2	1	0	1	-1
Icterine Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Grasshopper Warbler	62	0	62	83	6	89	27
Blackcap	1796	16	1812	1695	15	1710	-102
Garden Warbler	138	7	145	103	0	103	-42
Barred Warbler	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Lesser Whitethroat	65	0	65	33	0	33	-32
Whitethroat	306	6	312	293	2	295	-17
Dartford Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Subalpine Warbler	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Firecrest	19	0	19	52	0	52	33

Ringing totals	2016			2017			Year total diff
Species	FG	Pulli	Total	FG	Pulli	Total	
Goldcrest	2381	0	2381	2553	0	2553	172
Wren	1106	26	1132	1059	33	1092	-40
Nuthatch	158	231	389	144	204	348	-41
Treecreeper	128	11	139	109	3	112	-27
Starling	375	0	375	324	28	352	-23
Ring Ouzel	2	0	2	2	0	2	0
Blackbird	1234	143	1377	1168	149	1317	-60
Fieldfare	91	0	91	67	0	67	-24
Redwing	2094	0	2094	2266	0	2266	172
Song Thrush	368	88	456	422	62	484	28
Mistle Thrush	7	6	13	9	6	15	2
Spotted Flycatcher	73	60	133	58	37	95	-38
Robin	1302	63	1365	1297	106	1403	38
Bluethroat	0	0	0	3	0	3	3
Pied Flycatcher	474	5729	6203	650	6290	6940	737
Red-breasted Flycatcher	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Black Redstart	6	0	6	3	0	3	-3
Redstart	103	646	749	63	448	511	-238
Whinchat	5	109	114	6	58	64	-50
Stonechat	102	48	150	108	51	159	9
Wheatear	78	40	118	96	14	110	-8
Dipper	111	634	745	106	652	758	13
House Sparrow	629	105	734	750	153	903	169
Tree Sparrow	0	21	21	0	2	2	-19
Dunnock	751	18	769	830	22	852	83
Yellow Wagtail	0	0	0	9	0	9	9
Grey Wagtail	27	117	144	33	91	124	-20
Pied Wagtail	219	100	319	235	36	271	-48
(White Wagtail)	48	0	48	39	0	39	-9
Meadow Pipit	912	89	1001	925	50	975	-26
Tree Pipit	42	3	45	43	12	55	10
Water Pipit	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Rock Pipit	112	4	116	61	8	69	-47
Chaffinch	2162	5	2167	1900	2	1902	-265
Brambling	25	0	25	150	0	150	125
Hawfinch	232	12	244	185	9	194	-50
Bullfinch	445	9	454	625	11	636	182
Greenfinch	837	0	837	583	1	584	-253
Twite	34	0	34	24	0	24	-10
Linnet	623	27	650	632	10	642	-8
Lesser Redpoll	1064	0	1064	725	0	725	-339
Common Redpoll	5	0	5	1	0	1	-4
Redpoll (Common/Lesser)	8	0	8	36	0	36	28
Goldfinch	3242	4	3246	3336	11	3347	101
Siskin	3148	0	3148	2958	0	2958	-190
Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Yellowhammer	246	7	253	149	0	149	-104
Little Bunting	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Lapland Bunting	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Reed Bunting	438	5	443	476	3	479	36
TOTAL	**48,293**	**17,369**	**65,662**	**49,406**	**18,347**	**67,753**	**2091**

The table does not show birds that have been captured with a ring on already. The ringing totals above are derived from the BTO database and similar numbers can be seen on the online Ringing Report: **www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports**.

2016 and 2017 selected recoveries

Below is a small selection of recoveries that stand out from the 44,919 re-encounters (recaptures, resightings or birds found dead) over the two years of this report. The reports of note either involve long distances travelled, unusual species or longevity. 73% of re-encounters are by ringers, who are more likely to find a ringed bird but reports from the public are also important, particularly in areas less covered by ringers. Rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, helping to 'fill in the gap' of the bird's life history. To report a ringed bird, go to **www.ring.ac**; you will receive details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

Codes used in the recoveries:

M	Male
F	Female
Pull.	Ringed as a pullus (nestling)
2	Fully-grown, year of hatching unknown
3(3J)	Hatched during the current calendar year (in juvenile plumage)
4	Hatched before the current calendar year, exact year unknown
5	Hatched during the previous calendar year
6	Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown
7	Hatched two years ago
8	At least three years, exact year unknown

Mute Swan (U4925)
15/09/1993 Brookside, Telford, Shropshire (pull.)
21/12/2017 Abermule, Newtown, MONTGOMERY
55km W 24y 3m 6d Alive. Attacked by swan
[Longevity record is 29y 1m 11d]

Manx Shearwater (FR17206)
29/08/1980 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON (pull.)
04/07/2016 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON
0km 35y 10m 5d Controlled

Manx Shearwater (FR99047)
02/09/1985 Bardsey Island, CAERNARFON (pull.)
05/02/2016 Puerto Piramides, **Argentina** 42˚34'S 64˚16'W
12,055km W 30y 5m 3d Fresh dead
[27th record to Argentina]

Gannet (1243859)
24/06/1987 Great Saltee Island, Wexford (pull.)
14/09/2017 Rotherslade Bay, Swansea, GOWER
191km ESE 30y 2m 21d Fresh dead
[Longevity record is 37y 4m 16d]

Gannet (F36354)
14/07/2008 Ortac, Alderney, **Channel Islands** 49˚43’N 2˚16’W (pull.)
13/07/2016 Grassholm, PEMBROKE
318km NW 7y 11m 29d Controlled

Red Kite (GN54165)
13/06/2003 Site Confidential, near Llandovery, CARMARTHEN (pull.)
09/03/2016 Tregaron, CEREDIGION
12y 8m 25d Fresh road casualty

Buzzard (HT11384)
06/07/1986 Trawsfynydd, MEIRIONNYDD (pulli)
27/12/2016 Blaenau Ffestiniog, MEIRIONNYDD
10km N 30y 5m 21d Poor condition. Released
[new British & Irish longevity record]

Oystercatcher (FA14219)
28/07/1984 Wig, near Bangor, CAERNARFON (8)
12/09/2017 Southport Marine Lake, Southport, Merseyside
83km ENE 33y 1m 15d Fresh road casualty
[Longevity record is 40y 1m 11d]

Ringed Plover (NV69437)
04/09/2016 Llanfairfechan, CAERNARFON (3)
18/09/2016 Fish Market, Nouakchott, **Mauritania** 16˚6’N 16˚1’W
4044km SSW 0y 0m 14d Colour ring sighting
[seventh record to Mauritania]

Whimbrel (EX28195)
14/09/2013 Gann estuary, PEMBROKE (4)
06/11/2016 Tendaba, **The Gambia** 13˚25’N 15˚48’E
4658km SSE 3y 1m 23d Colour ring sighting
[first record to The Gambia]

Curlew (CT17911)
10/01/2014 Siikalatva, Pohjois-Pohjanmaa, **Finland** 64˚12’N 25˚45’E (pull.)
02/10/2016 Llanfairfechan, CAERNARFON
2090km SW 2y 2m 22d Controlled
[second record from Finland]

Knot (SX01620)
30/09/2016 Ynyslas, Borth, CEREDIGION (3)
26/08/2017 Harlingen, **The Netherlands** 53˚15’N 5˚15’E
629km E 0y 10m 27d Controlled

Dunlin (BT74810)
14/05/2017 Ynyslas, Borth, CEREDIGION (4)
23/05/2017 Melrakkasletta, Nordur-Thingeyjar, **Iceland** 66˚28’N 15˚55’W
1684km NNW 0y 0m 9d Colour ring sighting
[42nd record to Iceland]

Woodcock (EZ21803)
13/01/2016 Castle Hill, Llanilar, CEREDIGION (5)
24/11/2017 Sonderso Skov, Sonderso, **Denmark** 55˚27’N 10˚16’E
997km ENE 1y 10m 11d Shot
[25th record to Denmark]

Woodcock (EZ38318)
03/02/2017 Lletynybryn, Mochdre, MONTGOMERY (5)
19/03/2017 Nagygyanté, Mezőgyán, Békés, **Hungary** 46˚51’N 21˚23’E
1886km ESE 0y 1m 16d Shot
[second record to Hungary]

Jack Snipe (NV56909)
20/12/2016 Tre-gwynt, Llanerfyl, MONTGOMERY (3)
28/05/2017 Udorsky district, **Russia** 62˚49’N 49˚17’E
3304km ENE 0y 5m 8d Fresh dead. Poor condition
[second record to Russia]

Jack Snipe (NV56559)
23/10/2016 Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, RADNOR (4)
05/01/2017 Orouet, Saint-Jean-de-Monts, **France** 45˚46’N 2˚2’W
633km S 0y 2m 13d Fresh dead. Hunted
[12th record to France]

Kittiwake (EX41367)
09/07/2011 Puffin Island, ANGLESEY (pull.)
13/07/2017 Escalles, Pas-de-Calais, **France** 50˚55’N 1˚42’E
474km SE 5y 8m 30d Metal ring read

Lesser Black-backed Gull (D7734)
24/05/2013 Chouet Landfill, Vale, **Channel Islands** 49˚30’N 2˚32’W
29/06/2016 Skokholm, PEMBROKE
311km SE 3y 1m 5d Colour ring sighting

Common Tern (4H65734)
06/04/2013 La Somone, **Senegal** 14˚28’N 17˚4’W (4)
23/06/2016 The Skerries, ANGLESEY
17/05/2017 The Skerries, ANGLESEY
4465km NNE 3y 2m 17d Controlled

Razorbill (M25031)
12/07/1978 Skomer Island, PEMBROKE (pull.)
20/04/2017 Skomer Island, PEMBROKE
0km 38y 9m 8d Colour ring sighting
[Longevity record is 41y 11m 23d]

Puffin (EJ09629)
20/06/1988 Skomer Island, PEMBROKE (8)
30/04/2016 Skomer Island, PEMBROKE
0km 27y 10m 10d Colour ring sighting
[Longevity record is 37y 0m 16d]

Barn Owl (5522295)
22/06/2015 Jubbega, Friesland, **The Netherlands** 52˚58’N 6˚7’E (Pull.)
08/02/2016 Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, E.GLAMORGAN
658km WSW 0y 7m 17d Dead in building
[13th record from The Netherlands]

Nightjar (LC03056)
09/06/2013 Brechfa Forest West, Brechfa, CARMARTHEN (6M)
13/08/2017 Mynydd Rhos-wen, Brechfa Forest, CARMARTHEN
3km W 4y 2m 4d ID by radio transmitter

Nightjar (RK96122)
05/06/2009 Garn Goch, Rhigos, Hirwaun, E.GLAMORGAN (4M)
13/06/2017 Twyn-y-Bloedd, Blaen Rhondda, E.GLAMORGAN
3km NE 8y 0m 8d Controlled
[Longevity record is 12y 1m 13d]

Great Spotted Woodpecker (CT93116)
09/04/2006 Llangorse Lake, BRECON (6F)
28/11/2016 Pennorth, BRECON
0km 10y 7m 19d Controlled
[Longevity record is 11y 10m 21d]

Kestrel (EZ08083)
14/06/2015 Parys Mountain, Amlwch, ANGLESEY (Pull.)
16/10/2016 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Aberasturi, Álava, **Spain** 42˚49'N 2˚34'W
1182km S 1y 4m 2d Controlled
[21st record to Spain]

Chough (EB00879)
04/06/2006 Site Confidential, near Snowdon, CAERNARFON (Pull.)
07/06/2017 Site Confidential, near Llithfaen, CAERNARFON
11y 0m 3d Controlled
[Longevity record is 16y 8m 26d]

Blue Tit (X289189)
16/08/2009 Llangorse Lake, BRECON (3JF)
21/04/2017 Llangasty-Talyllyn, BRECON
0km 7y 8m 5d Fresh dead. Injury

Blue Tit (Claire Stott)

Great Tit (VR15750)
25/05/2010 Lone Lane, Penallt, GWENT (Pull.)
01/12/2017 Lone Lane, Penallt, GWENT
0km 7y 6m 6d Controlled

Chiffchaff (DEX306)
03/10/2015 Uskmouth, Newport, GWENT (3)
20/10/2016 Paul do Taipal, Coimbra, **Portugal** 40˚10'N 8˚40'W
1338km SSW 1y 0m 17d Controlled
[64th record to Portugal]

Blackcap (TT41169)
16/09/2016 Kralovehradecky Kraj, **Czech Republic** 50˚16'N 16˚4'E (3F)
29/01/2017 Rhos-on-Sea, DENBIGH
1400km W 0y 4m 13d Controlled
[second record from Czech Republic]

Blackcap (14834796)
15/09/2016 Sint Laureins, Oost-Vlaanderen, **Belgium** 51˚15'N 3˚31'E (3M)
07/10/2016 Bwlch Y Moch, CAERNARFON
557km WNW 0y 0m 22d Controlled

Sedge Warbler (S161774)
15/08/2016 Teifi Marshes, CEREDIGION (3)
29/08/2016 Jonkershove, West-Vlaanderen, **Belgium** 50˚58'N 2˚55'E
538km ESE 0y 0m 14d Controlled

Sedge Warbler (AK4902)
02/05/2016 La Rochelle, Guernsey, **Channel Islands** 49˚28'N 2˚30'W (4)
06/05/2016 Skomer Island, PEMBROKE
319km NW 0y 0m 4d Controlled
[51st record from Channel Islands]

Reed Warbler (L250825)
25/07/2010 Teifi Marsh, CEREDIGION (4F)
13/07/2017 Teifi Marsh, CEREDIGION
0km 6y 11m 18d Controlled

Reed Warbler (Z755086)
31/05/2016 Magor Marsh, GWENT (4)
21/01/2017 Senhora do Circulo, **Portugal** 40˚4'N 8˚31'W
1351km SSW 0y 7m 21d Controlled

Wren (KET311)
01/11/2017 Skokholm Island, PEMBROKE (3)
02/11/2017 Skokholm Island, PEMBROKE
0km 0y 0m 1d Eaten by Water Rail

Nest Recording Report for Wales for 2016 and 2017

A total of 4993 Welsh nest records were sent to the BTO for 2017 (4716 in 2016). This consisted of 93 species, with the most monitored species being Blue Tit (1104), Pied Flycatcher (658), Great Tit (567), Little Tern (336), and Swallow (234). Nest records of note include Grasshopper Warbler (one), Whinchat (one), Long-eared Owl (one), Willow Tit (five) and Lesser Redpoll (two).

The number of records submitted as part of the BTO Nest Record Scheme has also increased in recent years, assisted by a number of training courses organised by volunteers in South Wales. The top 10 species in each year listed below represent 73% of the annual totals and reflect the number of long-term studies undertaken by ringers. Red Kite's appearance in the 2017 table is thanks to the Welsh Kite Trust's submission of their dataset.

2016: 4716 nests of 102 species	
Species	**No. records**
Blue Tit	1122
Pied Flycatcher	711
Great Tit	507
Little Tern	250
Swallow	244
Blackbird	171
Redstart	144
Manx Shearwater	140
Dipper	131
Song Thrush	75

2017: 4990 nests of 92 species	
Species	**No. records**
Blue Tit	1104
Pied Flycatcher	685
Great Tit	567
Little Tern	336
Swallow	234
Blackbird	201
Red Kite	148
Dipper	148
Barn Owl	125
Kittiwake	106

It takes several years to to qualify as a ringer, due to the amount of information that needs to be known and to make sure that bird welfare comes first. We are grateful to the ringers in the area who have given up their time to study and catch wild birds (in order of number of birds ringed): Mid Wales Ringing Group, Teifi Ringing Group, Mr M Haigh, Bardsey BO, Gower Ringing Group, Skokholm Ringing Group, Merseyside RG, Pembrokeshire RG, Mr S G Dodd, SCAN RG, Llangorse RG, Spence & Brenchley, Mr P J Belman, Goldcliff Ringing Group, Mr K Jones, Mr P A Jenks, Mr J M Reed, Dr M J Wood, Bache Shearwood & McShane, Facey and Vafidis, Mr A A Robinson, Ms A Stratford, Mr J M S Lewis, Lt Col R C Dickey, Dr F M Slater, Mr G Roberts, Langford and Latham, Mr D J Stanyard, Dr G E Austin, Mr K J Foster, Shropshire Ringing Group, Dr S J Tyler, Kenfig RG, Mr A Turner, Mr M G Prior, RSPB, Professor TR Birkhead, Mr D G Coker, Mr J A Lawton Roberts, Dr P D Rose, Dr S K Thomas, Mr W M Jones, Mr A Lowe, Mr D C Proll, Mr W D Jackson, Mr L J Barber, Mr D Anning, Mr C J Parry, Mr B Stewart, Mr D J Cooksey, Mr K J Hemsley, BTO Research Group, Dr C S Townsend, Flat Holm RG, Mr J Richards, Dr I P Vaughan, Mr K C Vaughton, Souder RG, Mr W W Ashby, Dr P R Holmes, Edward Grey Institute, Dr S C Votier, Havard and Sloan, Mr A M Taylor, Mr J A Eatough, Dr H J Hanmer, Mr D G Cotgrave, Mr P J Rock, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, Mr D T Hill, Blackburn Leighton & Moores, Mr J D Avon, Dr P N Ferns, Mr N T Tierney, Mr G Richardson, Mr S J Roberts, Dr S Lane, Mr G M Ashwell, Mr D N Greasley, Mr S P Binney, Fylde RG, RSPCA, East Dales Ringing Group, Mr R W Poole, Mr J E Grant, Mr R P Clevely, Mr R M Clarke, Mr P J Alker, Mr C J B Bridge, Rye Bay RG, Mr D A Cookson, Radipole RG, Mr A V Cross, Mr E J A Drewitt, Mr R C Knight, Mr G W Candelin, Christmas & Christmas, Mr D G Thomas.

The Welsh List: A Checklist of Birds of Wales (2nd Edition)

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Summary

This paper provides an update to the first edition of the *Checklist of Birds of Wales* (2017). It revises the list following adoption by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) World Bird List and now follows *The British List: A checklist of Birds of Britain* (9th Edition). It also makes changes in line with recent decisions by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC), the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and the Welsh Records Panel (WRP). The full list is available on the Welsh Ornithological Society website.

Introduction

This paper introduces the second edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales, hereafter referred to as the Welsh List, and has been prepared as a statement of the status of those species that are known to have occurred in Wales and the surrounding seas (up to 12 nautical miles). It incorporates all records up to 31 Dec. 2017. These were extracted from Lovegrove *et al.* (1994), Green (2002) and from subsequent records detailed in Welsh Bird Reports published by WOS.

The Welsh List

The Welsh List is the list of birds recorded in Wales, maintained by the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) through the Welsh Records Panel (WRP). However, records have only been included after acceptance by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) and/or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). The Welsh List can be viewed on the WOS website (**https://birdsin.wales/rare-birds/welsh-records-panel/**). For each species, the list includes the English vernacular name, Welsh name and scientific name and each is assigned to a Species Category and Species Status (see below).

In 2017, following a detailed review by the BOURC, the BOU announced that it would adopt the IOC *World Bird List* (Gill & Donsker 2017) for all its taxonomic needs including the British List, from 1 January 2018. The taxonomy and sequence of species in this second edition of the Welsh List is the first to follow the IOC *World Bird List*, using version 8.2, which was current at the time of going to press.

It is intended that the Welsh List will be kept under regular review by the WRP, with new species added, and potentially some removed following re-assessment. There remain a few issues to resolve over the racial identity of some species, but these do not impact on the assignment of species to categories.

Taxonomy, English and Welsh names

In maintaining the Welsh List, the WRP relies on the IOC for all decisions regarding taxonomic issues and on the BOURC for English names. Welsh names follow those used in the *Welsh Bird Report*, but there remains an issue regarding whether Welsh vernacular names for all races are required – this will be addressed in updates of this list on the WOS website.

Species categories used in the Welsh List

Each species is categorised according to the criteria for its admission to the Welsh List, with the Category (A, B or C) appearing to the right of the Welsh name in the checklist. A few species are assigned more than one category. Categories D and E do not form part of the main list, but are included in the checklist. It is acknowledged that Category E is likely to be incomplete, as few observers report 'obvious' escapes. Where category A, B or C species are known to have occurred also as escapes, this is indicated in this checklist.

As with taxonomic and English names, the Welsh List follows BOURC guidance on category definitions, except for C5 which has been expanded to include other parts of the UK as well as 'abroad' and, to add to the understanding of species in category C1, a subdivision has been made (see below).

The categories used in the Welsh List are defined as follows:

A Species that have been recorded in Wales in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.

B Species that were recorded in Wales in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.

C Species that, although introduced in Wales, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations:

- C1.1 Naturalised introduced species – species that occurred only as a result of introduction PRIOR to 1950 e.g. Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*).
- C1.2 Naturalised introduced species – species that occurred only as a result of introduction SINCE 1950 e.g. Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*).
- C2 Naturalised established species – species with established populations resulting from introductions by humans, but which also occur in an apparently natural state e.g. Gadwall (*Anas strepera*).
- C3 Naturalised re-established species – species with populations successfully re-established by humans in areas of former occurrence e.g. Goshawk (*Accipter gentilis*).

C4 Naturalised feral species – domesticated species with populations established in the wild e.g. Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*).

C5 Naturalised species – species from established naturalised populations in other parts of Great Britain or abroad.

C6 Former naturalised species – species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised populations are either no longer self-sustaining or are considered extinct e.g. Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*).

D Species where there is reasonable doubt that they have ever occurred in a natural state in Wales, that would otherwise appear in Category A. Species placed in Category D only, form no part of the Welsh list and are not included in the species totals.

E Species that have been recorded in Wales as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapes from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the Welsh list (unless otherwise included in Categories A, B or C).

E* Species in Category E that have bred in the wild in Wales (whose breeding populations are thought not to be self-sustaining) e.g. Reeves Pheasant (*Syrmaticus reevesii*)

A species is usually placed in only one category, but some are placed in multiple categories.

Status definitions used in the Welsh List as follows:

Resident and breeds	Present all year and breeds
Breeds, but winters outside Wales	Breeding summer visitor
Resident but not breeding	Present all year, but not breeding
Regular breeder before 1950	
Regular breeder for a period after 1950	
Occasional breeder before 1950	Bred on fewer than five occasions
Occasional breeder after 1950	Bred on fewer than five occasions
Introduced before 1950	Introduced resident breeder
Introduced since 1950	Introduced resident breeder
Bred, but in hybrid pairing	
Winter migrant	Present during winter months
Passage visitor	Spring and autumn passage migrant
Scarce migrant	Scarce visitor (not on BBRC or Welsh Records Panel lists), with 5-20 records each year
Rare migrant	Rare visitor (majority assessed by Welsh Records Panel, but not on BBRC list), with more than 10 occurrences ever, but fewer than five records each year
Vagrant	Vagrant to Wales (assessed by British Birds Records Committee or Welsh Records Panel) with 10 or fewer records in total
Escape	Escapes from captive populations
From re-introduction scheme	Marked birds attributable to re-introduction schemes e.g. Crane (*Grus grus*)

The Welsh List changes since first edition (2017)

The changes to Category A, B and C of the Welsh List from the first edition (published on 1 Jan. 2017) are:

- Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* is now treated as two species: Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* and Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris.* Subspecies recorded of Taiga Bean Goose is *Anser fabalis fabilis* and of Tundra Bean Goose is *Anser serrirostris rossicus*. Both species are now included in Category A of Welsh List.

- Macaronesian Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* is now treated as two species - Barolo Shearwater *P. baroli* and Boyd's Shearwater *P. boydi*. Only Barolo Shearwater has been recorded in Wales.

- Hudsonian Whimbrel *Numenius hudsonicus* is now considered a subspecies of Whimbrel *N. phaeopus hudsonicus*.

- Iceland (Thayer's) Gull *Larus glaucoides thayeri* (2CY) at Burry Holm, GOWER on 4-19 Jan. 2014. This subspecies added to the Welsh List.

- Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* (3CY or older) in Porthmadog area, MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON on 23-26 July 2002. This species added to Category A of Welsh List.

- Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* is removed from Category A of the Welsh List because currently it is only separable from Stejneger's Stonechat *S. stejnegeri* based on DNA analysis. The identification of all records of Siberian Stonechat in Wales cannot now be considered as proven, though records as either/or will continue to be reported by the Welsh Records Panel and in the *Welsh Bird Report*.

- White (Masked) Wagtail *Motacilla alba personata* - (2CY) at Camrose, PEMBROKE, on 29 Nov. to 26 Dec. 2016. This subspecies added to Welsh List.

- Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* (2CY) at, Sudbrook, GWENT, on 12 May 2016. This species added to Category E of Welsh List

The number of species recorded in Wales (as of 31 Dec. 2018), within each category, is now as follows:

Category	Total
A	430
B	7
C	11
Total	**448**

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Acknowledgements

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County and other bird reports 2017

This report is compiled from the county bird reports for 2017:

Gwent Bird Report 2017. Editor: John Coleman.
Available from Andrew Cormack, 29 Chestnut Drive, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5JZ. Price £10 + £1.50 for p&p. Cheques payable to the Gwent Ornithological Society.

Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2017. Editor: John Wilson.
Available from the Editor, 122 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HH. Price: £8 + £1.58 for p&p. Cheques payable to Glamorgan Bird Club.

Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2017. Co-editor: Robert E Tallack.
Available from the Editor, 1 Woodside Close, Killay, Swansea, SA2 7ED. Price: £7. Cheques payable to Gower Ornithological Society.

Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2017. Editor: Rob Hunt.
Available from Wendell Thomas, 48 Glebe Road, Loughor, Swansea SA4 6QD. Cheque for £7.28 (includes postage) payable to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2017. Editor: Jon Green.
Available online at **http://pembrokeshirebirdgroup.blogspot.com/p/reports.html**

Ceredigion Bird Report 2017. Editor: Arfon Williams.
Available from the Editor, Abernaint, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, SA19 8JR. Cheque for £5 +£1.50 for p&p, payable to A.Williams.

Breconshire Bird Report 2017. Editor: Andrew King.
Available from Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Lion House, Bethel Square, Brecon, Powys LD3 7AY. Price £7 + £1.20 p&p. Cheques payable to 'Brecknock Wildlife Trust'. Back copies available at £1.50.

Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2017. Editor: Mike Haigh.
Available online at **http://montgomerybirdblog.blogspot.co.uk**

Cambrian Bird Report 2017 (Anglesey, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd). Editor: John Small.
Available from Geoff Gibbs, Fron Wen, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan, Conwy LL33 0ET. Price £7.20 including postage, cheque payable to Cambrian O.S.

North-East Wales Bird Report 2017 (Denbighshire and Flintshire). Editor: Ian Spence.
Available from the Editor, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold CH7 6LT. Price £5 + £1.80 p&p.

Other Bird Reports

Bardsey's Wildlife 2017. Editor: Anthony John.
Available online at **http://online.anyflip.com/lmyq/ihhh/mobile/index.html#p=324**

Skokholm Bird Observatory Annual Report 2017
Available online at **https://www.welshwildlife.org/about-us/skokholm-reports/**

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